Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Egypt

'Terrorist' Plan To Destabilize Country Uncovered

NC2210061390 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2240 GMT 21 Oct 90

[Text] Cairo, 21 Oct (MENA)—The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH reports that the Egyptian Security Forces have arrested a new terrorist group that was preparing to commit a terrorist crime against some targets with the intent to destabilize Egypt.

In its 22 October issue, AL-JUMHURIYAH says that initial information indicates that this group has no connection with the terrorist group that assassinated People's Assembly Speaker Dr. Rifa't al-Mahjub and his bodyguards.

AL-JUMHURIYAH notes that the security forces are continuing to tighten the noose on terrorists and to uncover the hideouts of infiltrators who are working from a plan to strike at Egypt. Meanwhile, Interior Minister Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Abu-Musa today received the forensic laboratory's final report on the crime involving the assassination of Dr. al-Mahjub and five of his bodyguards.

Al-Mahjub Killers Said Linked To Abu Nidal

JN2110212790 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 20 Oct 90 p 1

[Excerpt] Security units are continuing their efforts to identify and capture the assassins of Dr. Rif'at al-Mahjub and his companions. Important evidence now available to them reveals that six people were involved in the assassination, and four of them used machineguns during the incident. According to official sources, the evidence proves that the terrorists are affiliated with the Palestinian Abu-Nidal [Sabri al-Banna] organization. [passage omitted]

Mubarak Departs for Saudi Arabia Visit

NC2210085190 Paris AFP in English 0834 GMT 22 Oct 90

[Text] Cairo, Oct 22 (AFP)—Egyptian President Husni Mubarak on Monday left for Saudi Arabia Monday on a previously unannounced visit. Informed sources said Mr. Mubarak might also visit other Gulf states. The Egyptian leader's trip was not reported by the country's media.

Mr. Mubarak had previously visited Saudi Arabia at least once since Egypt committed thousands of troops to the Gulf kingdom as part of an Arab and multinational force to shore up its defense against any Iraqi attack.

A 15,000-strong Egyptian mechanised division recently joined the 4,000 Egyptian paratroopers who were deployed in Saudi Arabia immediately after Iraq's August 2 invasion of neigbouring Kuwait. Another Egyptian unit has been sent to the United Arab Emirates. Its size has never been revealed.

U.S. Senate Approval To Cancel Debts Reported

NC2010070890 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 20 Oct 90

[Text] The U.S. Senate has approved the U.S. Administration's request to write off Egypt's military debts to the United States totalling $7.1 billion.

Premier Welcomes Decision

NC2110152290 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 21 Oct 90

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi made a statement today in which he welcomed the decision made by the U.S. Congress, at the request of the U.S. Administration, to cancel Egypt's military debts totaling more than $7.1 billion. The prime minister said that this decision will ease the burden on the Egyptian balance of payments, one of the main goals of Egypt's economic policy. It will also lead to the diversion of greater investments to production and services projects, make it possible to provide the largest possible number of job opportunities, and raise the people's standard of living.

Dr. Sidqi added that the cancellation of Egypt's debts is due to its important role, under President Husni Mubarak's leadership, in international politics, its pursuit of a policy of peace and of solving problems through peaceful means, its rejection of the policy of axes, and its opposition to any aggression. The cancellation of debts will also strengthen Egypt's position in its negotiations with the IMF, he said.

Makramallah Praises Move

NC2010170590 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1600 GMT 20 Oct 90

[Text] Cairo, 20 Oct (MENA)—Dr. Maurice Makramallah, minister of state for international cooperation, has said that the U.S. Senate's decision to approve the cancellation of Egypt's military debt to the United States is an important step toward relieving the pressure on Egypt's balance of payments and reducing the large deficit in the state's general budget. Makramallah added that Egypt welcomes the U.S. move. Egypt had paid between $.6 and $.8 billion in annual interest to service the $7.1 billion it had incurred in military debts to the United States.

In a statement to MENA, the minister of state said that the cancellation of the $7.1 billion debt to the United States in addition to the decision by Arab countries to cancel the debts and accumulated interest owed to them by Egypt, which total another $6 billion, means that 30 percent of Egypt's foreign debt has been written off. This will have a direct effect on the Egyptian economy as the foreign currency resources previously used to service these debts will be channeled to development projects and to reduce the deficit in the balance of payments.

Referring to the coming talks between Egypt and the IMF and the World Bank, Dr. Makramallah said that the cancellation of the U.S. and Arab debts will facilitate the conclusion of a comprehensive agreement between Egypt and the two international bodies.

Bahrain

U.S. Secretary of Air Force Arrives 19 Oct

JN1910195590 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1420 GMT 19 Oct 90

[Text] Manama, 19 Oct (WAKH)—U.S. Secretary of the Air Force Donald Rice arrived in Manama today on a visit to Bahrain. He will hold talks with Bahraini officials on the latest regional developments.

Welcoming him on his arrival were Staff Colonel Shaykh Ahmad Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah and the U.S. ambassador in Bahrain.

Meets With Defense Minister

JN2010132590 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0818 GMT 20 Oct 90

[Text] Manama, 20 Oct (WAKH)—Staff Major General Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Ahmad Al Khalifah, defense minister and deputy commander in chief of the Bahraini Defense Force, met with U.S. Secretary of the Air Force Donald Rice in Manama today.

They discussed bilateral cooperation in addition to the current developments in the region and other issues of mutual interest.

Departs Manama 20 Oct

JN2010134990 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0940 GMT 20 Oct 90

[Text] Manama, 20 Oct (WAKH)—U.S. Secretary of the Air Force Donald Rice left Manama this morning following a two-day visit to Bahrain.

During the visit, the U.S. secretary met with several senior officials in the Bahraini Defense Force.

Kuwait

Resistance Kills 30 Iraqis, Frees Prisoners

NC2010133890 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 20 Oct 90

[Text] The Kuwaiti resistance men have managed to release 70 Kuwaitis who were detained in an Iraqi prison in the area of Safwan, along the Iraqi-Kuwaiti borders. Thirty Iraqi soldiers were killed during the resistance attack against the Safwan prison. An Iraqi ammunition depot in the same area was destroyed and several Iraqi army vehicles were set ablaze during the attack.

Government Rejects Partial Settlement With Iraq

LD2110232990 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2215 GMT 21 Oct 90

[Text] Al-Ta'if, 21 Oct (SPA)—The State of Kuwait has reiterated its firm rejection of any initiatives, mediation, or solutions which fall short of fully implementing the resolutions adopted at the last Arab summit in Cairo and by the UN Security Council on Iraqi troops' occupation of Kuwaiti territory.

This came in a statement made today by a responsible source in the Kuwaiti Council of Ministers in reaction to reports carried by some news agencies about a new initiative to end the current crisis in the Arabian Gulf which resulted from Iraq's invasion and occupation of the State of Kuwait.

The Kuwaiti responsible source recalled the resolutions adopted at the Arab summit and the UN Security Council session condemning Iraq's aggression and invasion of the State of Kuwait, demanding the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of Iraqi troops from all Kuwaiti territory, and supporting the restoration of the legitimate authority to the State of Kuwait. The source referred in particular to UN Security Council Resolution 660.

The Kuwaiti responsible source concluded his statement by affirming Kuwait's full commitment to implement all the aforementioned resolutions. Kuwait believes that the entire world is now more committed to confront the assailant Iraqi regime which is confirming with daily practices its violation of all laws, religions, Arab and international charters, and human values. The source mentioned the oppression, maltreatment, and banishment suffered by the people of Kuwait and those living in it who belong to various religions and nationalities.

Amir Issues Decree To Protect Citizens' Assets

LD2010225790 Riyadh Television Service in Arabic 1953 GMT 20 Oct 90

[From the "State of Kuwait" program]

[Text] Amiri decree to put property of Kuwaiti citizens and residents under the state's protective ownership:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Having cognizance of the Constitution and the Amiri decree issued on 13 July 1986, and the Amiri decree issued on 3 August 1990;

Given the occupation of the State of Kuwait by the Iraqi forces since Thursday, 2 August 1990;

Following the minister of justice and legal affairs' report and the agreement of the Council of Ministers;

We have issued the following law:

Clause 1: Assets belonging to Kuwaiti citizens or to noncitizens whose legal abode had been Kuwait, whether they are individuals or corporations, notwithstanding whether their assets are inside or outside the State of Kuwait, will be put under the protective ownership of the State of Kuwait, represented by its legitimate government, whenever such assets are lost or transgressed against under any form by the authorities of occupation or the Iraqi Government and/or if their ownership and

control are transferred to third parties without the owners' agreement. The protective ownership is being imposed with the aim of protecting such assets for their lawful owners.

Clause 2: The State of Kuwait has the right, in accordance with the protective ownership as stipulated in the above clause, to take through its legitimate government judicial, administrative, and legal procedures in any country, as it thinks fit, to protect the aforementioned property; and, in particular the legitimate government, which is the owner of such protected assets, to take steps with the administrative and judicial parties in any country to protect the aforementioned assets as they were its own if such assets are being seized by the occupying authorities, were damaged or destroyed during the period of occupation, or disposed of directly or indirectly by these authorities for the benefit of third parties. The aforementioned will include Iraqi Government action as well as its public bodies and institutions' acts of confiscation, nationalization, seizure, and other forms of transgression against property or its seizure. The Government of the State of Kuwait has the right, in particular, to impose protective and executive freezes on belongings of the Iraqi Government or its public bodies and institutions in foreign countries.

Clause 3: Assets under protective ownership, in accordance with this law, include immovable and movable property, including money in various currencies, precious metals, gems, and banknotes, including shares, bonds, money orders, established rights with third parties, deposits with banks and other private and public assets.

Clause 4: Kuwait's legitimate government will take, when occupation ends and normality returns, the necessary measures to abrogate this law when rights are returned to their legitimate owners.

Clause 5: This law takes effect from the date of the occupation of the State of Kuwait, 2 August 1990. It will be published in the official gazette and conveyed to foreign governments through diplomatic channels.

Minister Hails Increased Opposition to Saddam

PM1910084290 Jeddah AL-MADINAH in Arabic 13 Oct 90 pp 12-13

[Interview with Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahman al-'Awadi, minister of state for cabinet affairs, by Husayn al-Sha'ir; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Al-Sha'ir] How would you assess the present situation with respect to the Gulf problem, and do you expect it to be resolved: peacefully or militarily?

[Al-'Awadi] The development of events, as you can see, is now clear. The noose is now being tightened around Saddam Husayn's neck as a result of the UN and Security Council resolutions as well as international moves in general. There has also been an improvement in the Arab position on the present Kuwaiti crisis. Some of the rulers who made promises to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn are now backtracking and standing by us. In fact, the world as a whole and world public opinion supports the Kuwaiti cause. As for the claim that the issue is now characterized by a state of neither peace nor war, it is untrue. The world public now believes that there is no other way out for Saddam and his army except a complete withdrawal from Kuwait and the restoration of the ruling authority to Kuwait without any restrictions or conditions. The world will not accept anything else. The world public will not approve of any gains for the Iraqi Army or Saddam Husayn. I believe that, no matter what is said, this must be done. As for the method, it will be achieved peacefully, but at the same time we cannot forget what Saddam Husayn has done to our country: invasion, sabotage, and destruction. He must compensate us fully for the damage inflicted on us as a result of that blatant invasion, brutal aggression, and all the losses. The Iraqi regime must be held accountable for all the crimes it has committed against the peaceful Kuwaiti people. [passage omitted]

[Al-Sha'ir] Have some leaders of the states adopting a different position on the justness of the Kuwaiti cause and the present situation in the Gulf made any change in their position?

[Al-'Awadi] Certainly all the brothers who sympathized with the Iraqi regime have now started to backtrack. For example, the Sudanese, the Yemeni, and even the Jordanian brothers have started saying that they do not accept an Arab state's occupation of or aggression against another Arab state. They have started demanding that Iraq withdraw from Kuwait, that the ruling authority be restored, and that Kuwait's affairs be left to the Kuwaitis. [passage omitted]

[Al-Sha'ir] A great deal is being reported about measures being applied by Saddam Husayn inside Kuwait to change the Kuwaiti identity and impose an Iraqi identity. Do you believe that this will have an effect after the withdrawal?

[Al-'Awadi] Saddam's dream is to change what he sees, but Kuwaiti and Arab hearts are faithful hearts. He will not be able to change what is engraved in our hearts or our affiliation to our regime and ruler, the amir. These are nothing but false and brutal attempts, and we will stand fast. We do not recognize any changes. Thank God, the states around us support us at international forums, the United Nations, the Security Council, and at the Gulf, Arab, and Islamic levels. [passage omitted]

Airways' First Flight Takes Off From Cairo

NC1810201290 Paris AFP in English 1704 GMT 18 Oct 90

[Text] Cairo, Oct 18 (AFP)—Kuwait Airways took to the skies again Thursday with its first regular flight since the Iraqi invasion of the emirate, the company said at its provisional headquarters in the Egyptian capital.

A Boeing 727 in the company's blue-and-white colours took off with 35 passengers on board bound for Jeddah in Saudi Arabia, from where it was to fly on to Bahrain and finally Dubai in the United Arab Emirates. Another Kuwaiti plane was to leave Cairo later Friday for Bahrain.

Iraq seized 15 of the company's 23 aircraft in the August 2 invasion and has since incorporated them into its own national carrier, Iraqi Airways.

Company officials have said Kuwait Airways aims to restore its network of regular flights gradually and is seeking 692 million dollars from insurers for the loss of the bulk of its fleet.

Oman

Sultan Qabus Receives Message From Kohl

JN2010135990 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1140 GMT 20 Oct 90

[Text] Muscat, 20 Oct (WAKH)—His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman received a written message from German Chancellor Helmut Kohl dealing with friendly bilateral relations and issues of mutual interest.

Yusuf Bin-al-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, Omani minister of state for foreign affairs, was handed the message today when he received the accredited German charge d'affaires to the Sultanate.

State Minister Receives Message From Shevardnadze

JN2010163990 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 20 Oct 90

[Text] Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs, received an oral message from Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze dealing with friendly bilateral relations and events in the region.

The message was delivered by the Soviet ambassador to the Sultanate when the minister received him this morning.

Minister Leaves for Jordan To Deliver Message

JN2010131890 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0800 GMT 20 Oct 90

[Text] Muscat, 20 Oct (WAKH)—Omani Information Minister 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rawwas left Muscat today for Amman on a short visit to Jordan.

During the visit, al-Rawwas will convey an oral message from Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman to Jordanian Monarch King Husayn Bin-Talal on bilateral relations and current developments in the region.

Qatar

U.S. Secretary of Air Force Meets Minister

JN2010165390 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1110 GMT 20 Oct 90

[Text] Doha, 20 Oct (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, Qatari heir apparent and defense minister, met in Doha today with the U.S. Secretary of the Air Force who is currently visiting Doha.

They exchanged views on the developments of the Gulf crisis and military coordination in fields of interest to both countries.

Departs 20 Oct

JN2010165690 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1455 GMT 20 Oct 90

[Text] Doha, 20 Oct (WAKH)—U.S. Secretary of the Air Force Donald Rice left Doha today following a brief visit to the State of Qatar.

He was seen off at Doha international airport by Staff Air Colonel Ahmad 'Abdallah al-Kawari, deputy commander of the Qatari Air Force; U.S. Ambassador to Qatar Mark Hambley; and Qatari Armed Forces senior officers.

Saudi Arabia

Islamic Group Claims Downing of Tornado Jet

JN2010173790 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1717 GMT 20 Oct 90

[Text] A British warplane of the Tornado type crashed while preparing to land at the Saudi base of Tabuk yesterday evening. A military spokesman said that the British and Saudi Armies are investigating the incident to pinpoint its causes.

In this respect, a fundamentalist organization calling itself the World Islamic Front for Liberation [Al-Jabhah al-'Alamiyah al- Islamiyah lil Tahri] has claimed responsibility for downing the British plane. A spokesman for the front has stated that the front will strike at the U.S. and British forces and their allies in the Arabian Peninsula and in any other place.

Saddam Husayn, Ben Bella 'Conspiracy' Alleged

LD2010050990 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2135 GMT 19 Oct 90

[Text] Jeddah, 19 Oct (SPA)—Informed sources have revealed a suspicious conspiracy between Saddam Husayn and Ben Bella, the toppled former president, in which Saddam Husayn promised Ben Bella the Arab Maghreb empire.

In statements made today, these sources said that Ben Bella visited Baghdad a number of times, during which he participated with the ruler of Iraq in drawing up his

devilish scheme for occupying Kuwait before the invasion. He recently publicly visited Baghdad, immediately after the completion of the aggression, to congratulate Iraq's Saddam on his crime.

The source added: This indicates that Ben Bella's slogans are false and that he lies and forgets that the Algerian people still remember his years of dictatorial rule—which led to the complete collapse of Algeria during his era and to his removal from power by the unanimous demand of the Algerian people.

The sources stressed that the scheme of Saddam and Ben Bella included Tunisia, Libya, and Mauritania, and that some Arab Maghreb countries had prior information about that scheme.

The informed sources pointed out that these countries considered the conspiracy a blatant interference that the head of the Iraqi regime tried to impose on the Arab homeland to fulfill his aggressive ambitions and aims, spreading sedition all over the map of the region.

The sources denied that Saudi Arabia has addressed any invitation to Ben Bella to visit it, as he recently claimed. The sources pointed out that Saudi Arabia does not deal with suspicious characters or those who gamble with the sovereignty of the fraternal countries in the Arab Maghreb.

Egyptian President Mubarak Arrives 22 Oct

NC2210091090 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0850 GMT 22 Oct 90

[Text] Al-Qaysumah, Saudi Arabia, 22 Oct (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and his accompanying delegation arrived in al-Qaysuman airport in the northeastern part of Saudi Arabia at 1100 today, Saudi time.

Prince Muhammad Bin-Fahd, prince of the eastern area; Lieutenant General Khalid Bin-Sultan, commander of Saudi forces; Major General Muhammad 'Ali Bilal, commander of the Egyptian forces in Saudi Arabia; and senior military officials met President Mubarak upon his arrival at al-Qaysumah airport, which is situated in Hafar al-Batin area.

The delegation accompanying President Mubarak during his visit to Saudi Arabia includes Dr. 'Isma't 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Dr. Kamal al-Janzuri, deputy prime minister and planning minister; Safwat al-Sharif, information minister; Dr. 'Atif 'Ubayd, minister of cabinet affairs and minister of state for administrative development; General Yusuf Sabri Abu-Talib, minister of defense and war production; Dr. Muhammad al-Razzaz, finance minister; and Dr. Zakariya 'Azmi, director of the Presidential Office.

[Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic in a similar report at 1000 GMT adds: "President Mubarak will meet the Egyptian commanders and soldiers stationed in Hafar al-Batin in Saudi Arabia."]

Deadline for Yemeni Privileges Extended

LD2110185290 Riyadh Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 21 Oct 90

[Text] A responsible source at the Interior Ministry has stated the following:

The government of the custodian of the two holy mosques is anxious to help the brother Yemenis residing in the Kingdom and to give more time to those Yemenis who wish to adapt their status in light of the new regulations explained in the Interior Ministry statement dated 20 September 1990.

It has therefore been decided to extend the time limit by another 30 days from the expiration of the first time limit. It is hoped that the brother Yemenis will seize this opportunity and rush to the passport departments throughout the Kingdom in order to complete the necessary formalities.

'Source' Criticizes Yemeni Foreign Minister

LD1910174790 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1416 GMT 19 Oct 90

[Excerpts] Riyadh, 19 Oct. (SPA)—Commenting on statements made by the Yemeni foreign minister, a responsible source told SPA today: At last it is the turn of His Excellency the Yemeni foreign minister, Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, to make his contribution and join the club of the misguided who distort facts. In his speech to the closed session of the Arab League Council on Wednesday he had this to say: "Then came the finishing touch when we declared to the whole world that over 350,000 Yemenis had returned to their country leaving behind them the money, the possessions, and the dues they gained from long years of hard work, effort and sweat." He added sarcastically: "What abundant gains, what enormous and attractive profits, and what impressive repaid dues." Minister al-Iryani went on to say in his speech: "Neighborliness has rights and it also has duties and such is the essence of a relationship between brothers."

The source added: "Your Excellency, it was of no use at all to tell lies, confuse matters, and change the facts. Since you knew all the facts you should have truthfully probed your conscience before saying what you said by taking guidance from God's words 'and those who do not give false testimony' and 'those who tell lies about God will not win.'

"Your Excellency, you know better than others the real stands taken by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia toward your country and your people and you are fully aware of the generous and kind initiatives the government undertook for the fraternal Yemen throughout the years, out of the concern of your brothers the officials in this country for the bonds of fraternity and the good neighborliness you are talking about.

"We are not about to present the statistics and divulge the figures because this is not part of our character. We hope that we will not be forced to do so if the ingratitude of your media continues.

"Your Excellency, you say 'those returning from the Kingdom to Yemen have left behind them the money, the possessions, and the dues they gained,' but which dues to you mean? If it is money and possessions, they have taken them all back with them and nothing was missing. The world will see tomorrow, with sound and pictures, the money and the possessions the returning Yemenis took with them on trucks, cars, and trains, in addition to the agricultural machinery and other equipment they had. This will silence every mouth and surpass every statement." [passage omitted]

The source concluded the statement by saying: "Finally, we say, you asked us through diplomatic channels to stop opposing the campaigns of disinformation launched by your media and in return you promised not to continue this bickering. We responded favorably to your request in the hope that your promise was sincere. You then reverted to your old conduct via statements made by senior officials in Yemen until your turn came and you made your contribution to the campaign of disinformation, as we said. Therefore we were forced to correct the concepts and reveal the facts to public opinion."

Argentina's Cavallo Comments on Gulf Issues

Financing for Gulf-Bound Ships

PY1910132890 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1914 GMT 18 Oct 90

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 18 Oct (DYN)—Foreign Minister Domingo Cavallo today stated that the financing for the Argentine ships bound for the Persian Gulf "has ceased to be a problem" because most of the expenses for this operation "will be covered by contributions in kind from countries giving logistic support."

In a statement made on the telephone from Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, Cavallo said that "the mechanisms for the funds to finance this trip are being adjusted, but the supply of fuel, foodstuffs, technical support at ports, and any necessary repairs will be provided free of charge through contributions in kind."

Cavallo met yesterday with Saudi King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, with whom he made an in-depth analysis of the Persian Gulf situation and the possible evolution of the conflict.

The minister said he believes that the subject of financing for the deployment of Argentine ships "has ceased to be a problem" and that the few details that remain to be settled will be handled by Guillermo Seita, chief of the Foreign Ministry cabinet, who will remain in this city. [passage omitted]

The Saudi defense minister, with whom Cavallo met for more than two hours this morning, reiterated the significance and value that Saudi authorities see in the presence of Argentine ships in the Persian Gulf. Cavallo summarized his meeting with the Saudi minister: "I was able to appreciate their deep respect for the Argentine people and especially for President Menem."

Cavallo added that the Saudi authorities have reiterated their desire to "encourage investment in Argentina," and they analyzed the possibility of sending a business mission to look into this subject.

The foreign minister also announced that a military attache representing each branch will remain in that city with Seita to observe the development of events and the logistic support during operations. [passage omitted]

Country To Send Forces

LD1910225590 Riyadh Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 19 Oct 90

[Text] Argentine Foreign Minister Domingo Cavallo announced that in the message he conveyed to King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, the custodian of the two holy mosques, Argentine President Carlos Menem stated that Argentina was prepared to send troops to the region should the need arise. He said at a news conference held in Riyadh last night: During my meetings with the custodian of the two holy mosques and His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud—the second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation, and inspector-general—I had the feeling that they were totally satisfied with the world response to the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

The Argentine foreign minister stressed the need for the withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait and the full implementation of the UN resolutions issued to that effect. Iraq's continued refusal to withdraw from Kuwait makes a military intervention necessary. However, he went on to say: We should not lose hope in finding a peaceful solution. Saddam Husayn's withdrawal of his troops from Kuwait will make the possibility of a war more remote.

He pointed out that the international consensus and the combination of international efforts could force the Iraqi leader to review his thinking and leave Kuwait since he is facing the entire world. In this respect, he said: the entire world is against Saddam Husayn and this in itself is a very serious warning to Iraq's president to make him review his thinking, withdraw from Kuwait, and avoid war because if he embarks on this war he will not be able to face it, for he is confronted with a force bigger than his own.

The Argentine minister added: The general view in Argentina is that Iraq's president is overestimating his country's military strength. Hope is tied to Saddam Husayn's respect of the resolutions adopted by the UN Security Council. In the minister's opinion, the existence of a basis to safeguard peace in the region is an important matter even after the crisis resulting from Kuwait's occupation is over. He then indicated that his country was prepared to send troops to the Arabian Gulf should

the international troops need the presence of Argentine troops for technical reasons.

The Argentine foreign minister also expressed his country's willingness to supply the Gulf Cooperation Council states with military equipment if they made such a request. With regard to the statements made every now and then by the Iraqi regime about its readiness to sell oil at a low price, the Argentine minister said: The world knows that what Iraq is saying repeatedly is akin to meaningless cards. Iraq had previously offered to give oil free of charge to the developing countries but no country accepted the offer. If Saddam left Kuwait, the oil prices would be stabilized and that would give huge benefits to both the producers and the consumers. He indicated in this respect that the crisis in the Arabian Gulf had had a negative impact on world economy.

The Argentine minister also refused the idea of linking the Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait to the other issues of the region.

United Arab Emirates

U.S. Air Force Secretary Arrives 20 Oct

JN2110085990 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1730 GMT 20 Oct 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 20 Oct (WAKH)—U.S. Secretary of the Air Force Donald Rice and his delegation arrived in Abu Dhabi this evening. During the visit, Rice will hold talks with senior officials in the United Arab Emirates. They will exchange viewpoints on developments in the Gulf crisis and discuss cooperation in the military field between the two countries.

Yemen

Salih Interviewed on Gulf, Economic Problems

JN2010150890 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 19 Oct 90

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, has said that peace and dialogue are the only possible avenues to resolving the Gulf crisis. In an interview with the Japanese paper ASAHI published today, he said that Yemen's position has not been correctly understood and that Yemen never supported the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. He said there has been an attempt to distort the position of the Republic of Yemen through depicting it as being against the international unanimity at the UN Security Council. He said: This is untrue; Yemen is committed to all UN Security Council resolutions, although we in Yemen do not approve of preventing foodstuffs and medicines from reaching the people, children, and women of Iraq.

Asked whether Yemen is not currently exporting any materials to Iraq, the brother chairman said: Yemen has been hit economically by the crisis and has nothing to export to Iraq. He said the Yemeni position on the Gulf crisis is constant, principled, clear, and will continue to be so. He added that our country is facing economic difficulties owing to the Gulf crisis and to the return of thousands of expatriates. He said this will prompt the Yemeni people and leadership to look for the proper way to deal with these difficulties through self-reliance, expedite the search for and exploration of oil and mineral wealth, and increase cultivation, especially of wheat. He explained that our country has wide, fertile, and promising land, especially in Wadi Hadramawt, Shabwah, Bayhan, Ma'rib al-Jawf, and the Tihamah plain.

The brother chairman urged the international community and all friendly states to help our country to explore its resources and to overcome the economic difficulties resulting from the current crisis in the region.

The brother chairman welcomed French President Francois Mitterrand's initiative, saying it was a positive initiative and needs to be developed. He warned of the gravity of resorting to the military option in view of the destruction and catastrophe that will afflict the region and which will spare nobody and gravely harm the interests of many peoples of the region and the world. He said such an option will jeopardize world peace, stability, and security. He asserted that the foreign presence in the region does not help resolve the crisis, but further complicates it. He said: We are looking forward to a solution to this crisis within the Arab framework.

On Yemeni-Japanese relations, the brother chairman expressed hope for increased cooperation and trade between our country and Japan. He noted that Japan can play an important positive role in achieving peace in the region in view of its great economic power in the world and its good relations and huge interests with the people of the region.

Parliamentary Delegation Returns From Iran Talks

JN2110174890 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 21 Oct 90

[Text] The Council of Representatives delegation headed by Brother Sa'id al-Hakimi, member of the Council's Presidium, returned to Sanaa today from Tehran following a several-day visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran. During the visit, the delegation conveyed two messages, the first from brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, Presidential Council chairman, to his brother Iranian President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani; and the second from Dr. Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, the Council of Representatives speaker, to his brother Ayatollah Mehdi Karrubi, speaker of the Iranian Majlis.

In statements to the Yemeni News Agency SABA, brother al-Hakimi said the delegation also held talks with Iranian officials on improving relations between the two countries and on developments in the region. He said the viewpoints of both parties on a number of urgent issues were identical.

Saddam Proposes Release of French Nationals

JN2210130390 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1203 GMT 22 Oct 90

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] Ladies and gentlemen, His Excellency leader President Saddam Husayn has addressed a message to the National Assembly speaker. The following is the text:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Mr. Speaker of the National Assembly, esteemed members of the National Assembly. Peace be upon you.

Since eternity, Iraq has faced hard tests of its humanitarian principles and sublime values. And also since eternity, this test has been mostly accompanied by high national readiness to defend the homeland and people. So, the national Iraqi heritage has come into profound interaction with the human extensions and repercussions of its people's conduct and stands on the emerging events and circumstances that are at the heart of everyday life. When the light of Islam reached Iraq and spread throughout the world, the human values cherished by the Iraqis became even more profound. Whenever the Iraqis recalled the aspects of the relationship with their Arab nation and the nature of this nation's struggle, these human aspects became more and more deep-rooted in their souls and became more active.

On behalf of the nation, and not only because of its nationalist, honorable policy, Iraq is now being subjected to a rare test—nay, we do not think we would be departing from the truth if we say it is a unique test—as our people are being besieged from land, sea, and air in everything, including food, medicines, and baby milk, by the U.S. Administration, the tyrant of this age, and others who are being dragged behind the U.S. Administration. This siege exposes the falsity of democratic and human rights slogans by which they have deceived some and it has been adopted as a means by the new imperialism against the nationalist regimes and powers rejecting the bases of their inhuman policy.

At this time, while all infidels rallied against all believers and when the despots exposed all their injustice and lowliness, God wanted not only to test the extent of the Iraqis' faith in Him and in His mercy and in the rights of the people of Iraq, but also to test the principles of the people of Iraq in their view and behavior toward the peoples of the states that participated in injustice against our people.

Since you gentlemen know, like I and our believing, deeply-rooted, and great people know, courage acquires its pure historic and civilized meaning only when it proceeds from a basis of justice and readiness to forgive when one can do so and perform good deeds to whoever does a good deed; otherwise, it becomes something else we do not believe in and strips the owners of the meanings we have hinted at.

On the basis of this understanding; proceeding from the use of exigencies and pushing away harm from its targets and no further; because the French people have proven that they are a people who understand the meanings of the required correct stand toward events; after they, the political leaders in France, and President Mitterrand expressed their desire to solve the pending issues in our region comprehensively and peacefully; after the liberal French people have rejected Bush's aggressive methods and use of weapons against Iraq, and expressed this through popular activities such as demonstrations, cables, seminars, and writings; out of appreciation for all this and proceeding from Iraq's concern over its friendship with France and with those who are friendly to it;

I believe that your esteemed Assembly should discuss allowing all French citizens who are prevented from traveling outside Iraq to either travel or stay in Iraq. In this way, Iraq would be adding to its record the noble humanitarian concepts it deserves, which play their role in enlightening others about their humanitarian duties toward others. We provide the French people, whose friendship we have always cared for, with an additional opportunity to express the meanings of friendship and humanity without any obstacles that hamper their way.

God is great and the aggressors will be defeated.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn

[Dated] 4 Rabi' al-Thani, 1411 Hegira corresponding to 22 October 1990.

U.S. Fires Warning Shots at Fishing Boat

JN2210103890 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0940 GMT 22 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Oct (INA)—A responsible source at the Ministry of Transport and Communications today refuted the report carried by the local British PRESS ASSOCIATION news agency yesterday, in which it said that a U.S. destroyer fired shots across the bow of an Iraqi tanker in the Arabian Gulf for ignoring the U.S. destroyer's order to stop.

In a statement to INA, the source said the Iraqi ship, al-Bahr al-'Arabi, on lease from the al-Sharq Fishing Company, a private subsidiary company, is used for fishing, and is not a tanker as the British news agency claimed. The source said the ship is used as a refrigerator for storing fish.

The source said the fishing boat, al-Bahr al-'Arabi, was transporting fish from the Indian ocean and African ports when it was intercepted by the U.S. destroyer, U.S.S. O'Brien, which was sailing alongide the Italian frigate, Libeccio. He said the al-Bahr al-'Arabi continued its journey disregarding the U.S. destroyer's caution and warning shots.

The responsible source concluded his statement saying that this provocation of a leased ship reveals the nature

of the U.S. aggressor and its allies and their failure to impose a siege on valiant Iraq.

Former UK Prime Minister Arrives in Baghdad

JN2010145490 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1440 GMT 20 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Oct (INA)—Former British Prime Minister Edward Heath arrived in Baghdad this afternoon on a two-day visit to Iraq.

Heath was welcomed at the airport by the Foreign Ministry under secretary and the British ambassador in Baghdad.

Discusses Gulf With 'Aziz

JN2010192190 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1907 GMT 20 Oct 90

[Text] Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, received former British Prime Minister Edward Heath today. During the meeting, they exchanged views on the current situation in the Arabian Gulf.

The meeting was attended by the Foreign Ministry under secretary and the head of the International Organizations and Conferences Department at the Ministry.

Meets With Saddam

JN2110125290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1230 GMT 21 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Oct (INA)—His Excellency President Saddam Husayn today received Edward Heath, former British prime minister and member of the British House of Commons.

The meeting was attended by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

Wins Promise of 'Some' Releases

LD2110170190 London PRESS ASSOCIATION in English 1628 GMT 21 Oct 90

[Excerpts] Former Prime Minister Edward Heath today won a promise from Iraq's Saddam Husayn that he would free some of the Britons held in Baghdad. Mr. Heath held three hours of talks with Saddam to plead for the release of sick or dying Britons trapped since Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

He told a Baghdad news conference that arrangements would be made for some men to return home on Thursday, REUTER reported.

"The president assured me that some will be returning as a result of my visit," said Mr. Heath, who was criticised by some Conservative MPs for his mercy mission.

More than 1,400 Britons are held in Iraq and occupied Kuwait, some as human shields at key installations to deter any foreign attack. Mr. Heath told the press conference that Saddam had discussed with him the Gulf crisis and explained that he would do everything possible to achieve a peaceful solution.

But the Iraqi leader gave no indication that he was ready to withdraw from Kuwait which his armies invaded on August 2, Mr. Heath added. "His emphasis on diplomatic action was very considerable and what he wants to see is a stable order in the Middle East as a whole," said Mr. Heath.

He said he was now more hopeful of a diplomatic solution and urged Britain and other countries in the anti-Iraq alliance to do more. "I don't quite frankly believe that enough is being done on the diplomatic front," he said.

The 74-year-old MP, who met Iraqi foreign minister Tariq 'Aziz on Saturday for more than two hours, told Saddam today that all foreigners who wanted to leave Iraq should be able to do so.

British sources said 53 of the Britons stopped from leaving Iraq since the August 2 invasion of Kuwait were seriously ill or ageing. About 1,400 Britons are trapped in Iraq and Kuwait, the highest number of any Western country.

The BBC said Mr. Heath put forward a list of Britons who were sick, elderly and under 21. [passage omitted]

The Foreign Office in London was awaiting confirmation of the expected releases from embassy officials in Baghdad before commenting.

Mr. Heath said his staff and Saddam's were discussing lists of names, but the president had sought nothing in return. "He emphasised that he wished to do everything possible through diplomatic means to achieve a peaceful solution to the present crisis. He recognised its intense dangers and the disastrous effect warfare could have on the whole region and that the crisis could have on the world economy."

Mr. Heath said Saddam had been sympathetic to the view that detaining foreigners did not help a diplomatic solution but had given no sign that he would stop holding men at military installations and other strategic sites. "The belief remains that this is a protection against a sudden American attack," he said.

Holds News Conference

JN2110183590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1810 GMT 21 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Oct (INA)—Former British Prime Minister Edward Heath has expressed admiration for President Saddam Husayn's character and his wide and accurate knowledge of current events and their interrelations. Heath affirmed that his meeting with President Saddam Husayn today was a valuable opportunity.

At a news conference today attended by Arab and foreign newsmen as well as the INA correspondent, Heath said that during his meeting with President Saddam Husayn

he learned in detail about what might possibly lead to a solution of the current crisis in the region as a whole.

He added: On several occasions and through television interviews, I expressed support for reaching a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis, which I believe can be achieved through diplomatic action.

Mr. Heath stressed that holding an international conference to resolve all the region's problems is considered an urgent need. He said that he will propose that the idea of this conference be discussed by the British House of Commons. He pointed out that the Arabs can resolve their problems by themselves, and that this would ease the existing tension a great deal. He added that today, he became acquainted with the Iraqi viewpoint, and that he believes that the other parties to the current crisis have not made sufficient efforts to settle the Gulf crisis through diplomatic means. He expressed the hope that a solution will be reached for all the region's problems without resorting to the war option.

Iranian Embassy Reopens in 21 Oct Ceremony

JN2110181290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1738 GMT 21 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Oct (INA)—The Iranian flag was raised over the Iranian Embassy building in Baghdad this morning during the reopening ceremony of the Embassy following the two countries' decision to resume diplomatic relations.

The flag-raising ceremony was attended by a number of Foreign Ministry officials, the Iranian charge d'affaires, the Embassy staff, and the third secretary at the Turkish Embassy in Baghdad, which had been taking care of Iranian interests in Baghdad.

Abolqasem Sha'sha'i [name as received], Iranian charge d'affaires at the Iranian Embassy in Baghdad, stressed that there are profound ties between the Iraqi and Iranian Muslim peoples. In a statement to an INA correspondent, he said that the decision to reopen the two countries' embassies in Baghdad and Tehran comes as a result of normalization of relations and in implementation of the decision made during the recent visit to Tehran by the Iraqi Foreign Ministry under secretary.

He added that this move is a firm and confident step toward expanding fruitful cooperation between the two neighboring countries in order to serve the goals of the Islamic nation and to coordinate positions to confront any aggression against its sanctities and the security of its peoples.

Government Imposes Rationing of Gas Supplies

Oil Minister's Announcement

JN1910154690 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1506 GMT 19 Oct 90

[Text] Oil Minister 'Isam 'Abd-al-Rahim has said that applying the ration card system to supply citizens with the necessary goods to meet their various needs and requirements is a civilized mode of behavior used by all states in times of crisis.

In a statement to an INA correspondent today, the minister said that the Ministry of Oil has introduced this system to organize and guarantee the smooth flow of gasoline and motor oil supplies to citizens and to official and semiofficial state institutions. The minister added: This system will not include the products of gas oil, white oil, liquid gas, and other petroleum products whose supplies will remain normal, as is the case right now.

The minister went on to say: This system will go into effect as of Tuesday [23 October]. Citizens can receive the ration cards from reception centers that will operate as of 1000 tomorrow, Saturday, morning. Fifty-seven centers operating across Baghdad and the governorates will work continuously for one week. The minister said ration cards will be given to the recipient when he presents the original copy of the car's annual license [sanawiyyat al-siyyarah]. The minister said: It is not imperative that the car be brought to the distribution center, or that its owner come in person to collect his ration cards. A group of citizens can collect the annual licenses of their cars and send them along with one person to collect the ration cards for them. Similarly, the ministry has urged all ministries and departments not affiliated to ministries to collect the annual licenses of the cars owned by their employees, regardless of the place in which these licenses were issued, to make lists of these licenses, and to report to the branch of the Oil Products Distribution Company in al-Gaylani to receive the ration cards in order to alleviate the burdens on employees in this regard.

The oil minister pointed out that citizens will be supplied with gasoline and motor oil, type Babil [Babylon] from any governorate in the country, in accordance with coupons that will be distributed to them from the governorate in which the cars were registered.

He said official and semi-official cars are covered by the system, and that government departments must collect rationing cards for their serviceable vehicles from Baghdad according to lists drawn up for this purpose and issued by the oil products distribution company.

The minister made it clear that the ministry will supply motorists with gasoline and engine oil of the brand Babil and that a relevant announcement is to be issued the day after tomorrow, Sunday. The quotas have been calculated on a precise scientific basis so as to make available to the public the necessary requirements and ensure the optimum use of cars. He pointed out that motorists must observe speed limits, which are a practical and effective way of cutting gasoline and engine oil consumption, as well as keeping cars in good repair.

He stressed that the current major agricultural drive in Iraq will not suffer, since the distribution of the engine oil for machines serving the campaign will continue according to plan without recourse to the ration cards.

He urged the public to cooperate with the Ministry to ensure the successful implementation of the system and to avoid bottlenecks at the card registration and issue centers. He expressed high confidence in the awareness shown by the proud people of Iraq and their determination to stand up firmly to all enemy attempts to undermine our great Iraq. He said the oil complex center and the al-Gaylani branch of the Oil Products Distribution Company will be available to reply to all queries about the implementation of this system.

Ministry Explains Procedures

JN2110151390 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 19 Oct 90 p 4

[Statement issued by the Oil Ministry]

[Excerpt] In order to regulate the supply of gasoline and the gasoline-engine oil "Babylon Oil" to citizens, it has been decided to implement the system of supply by cards on these two products as of 23 October 1990. Citizens can collect these cards (the gasoline card and the engine oil card) from the centers listed in the table below which specifies the number plates of cars assigned to each center. The car owner must produce the original car registration certificate, which must be valid, to collect the cards in accordance with the following:

Private cars: One gasoline card plus one engine oil card.

Taxis: Two gasoline cards plus two engine oil cards.

Trucks with gasoline engines: Three gasoline cards plus three engine oil cards.

These centers will be opened in all governorates in the country as of 1000 on Saturday, 20 October 1990. They will be open 24 hours a day for a period of one week.

We wish to explain to car owners that the cards must be collected in the governorate where the car's registration certificate is issued.

This regulation only covers cars driven by gasoline engines. It does not cover gas oil, white oil, liquid gas, and other oil products, the supply of which will continue as usual.

We hope the owners of the gasoline-engine cars will cooperate with us to implement this regulation in order to secure their supply of fuel and engine oil and serve our dear country in the face of the savage imperialist onslaught. [table lists centers where cards can be collected in various governorates]

Minister on Rationing

JN2010075490 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 20 Oct 90

[Text] Oil Minister 'Isam 'Abd-al-Rahim has stressed that Iraq's readiness to sell its oil to willing buyers at $21 dollars per barrel proceeds from Iraq's belief in its humanitarian responsibilities toward the international community and its desire to remove the heavy economic burden on consumers throughout the world. In a news conference he held yesterday attended by Arab and foreign media correspondents, as well INA correspondents, the minister said that the Iraqi initiative does not clash with leader President Saddam Husayn's 10 September initiative offering free Iraqi oil to Third World countries harmed by the increase in oil prices due to the Gulf crisis.

The oil minister said that out of leader President Saddam Husayn's eagerness to spare world nations the serious economic consequences of the increase in oil prices in the world, Iraq maintains realistic economic dealings between oil-producing and oil-consuming countries—most of the latter's resources having been depleted and economies badly damaged by current oil prices. He said that companies and states, including the United States—whose position toward Iraq is well known—can buy Iraqi oil at the declared price of 21 dollars per barrel. He pointed out Iraq's readiness to (?export) from the Iraqi ports without transfer [of money] until arrangements with the buyers are made.

Asked about the introduction of gasoline and motor oil rationing in Iraq, the oil minister said rationing is a natural and civilized measure used by states under certain circumstances. The adoption of this system, he added, curbs wasting energy, strengthens Iraq's industrial base, (?perpetuates the production machine), and foils the aims of the economic blockade. He stressed that our people understand this measure very well and that they will enthusiastically observe it to confront the current imperialist-reactionary conspiracy targeting the existence of our great Iraqi people and the future of their generations.

Ration Card Centers Designated

JN2110081690 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 21 Oct 90

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] Ladies and gentlemen, in order to provide the best possible service to citizens, the Oil Ministry has decided that citizens can obtain ration cards for gasoline and motor oil irrespective of where the vehicle's annual license [sanawiyyat al-siyyarah] was issued.

A responsible source at the Ministry told Qasim Kamil, an IRAQI NEWS AGENCY correspondent, that the Oil Products Distribution Company's branch in al-Wusta, al-Gaylani has been designated as the center for issuing gasoline and motor oil ration cards for owners of vehicles carrying license plates of other governorates and operating in the Baghdad municipality area and the governorates of Wasit, al-Anbar, Diyala, and Salih-al-Din. The Oil Products Distribution Company's Nineveh branch has been designated as the center for issuing ration cards to owners of vehicles operating in the governorates of Nineveh, Dahuk, Irbil, and carrying the license plates of other governorates.

The source added: Owners of vehicles can obtain ration cards for vehicles operating in the al-Ta'imim, and al-Sulaymaniyah Governorates and carrying the license plates of other governorates, from the distribution center at the Oil Products Distribution Company's branch in al-Ta'imim. The owners of vehicles operating in the Governorates of Babylon, Karbala', al-Najaf, al-Qadisiyah, and al-Muthanna and carrying the license plates of other governorates can obtain ration cards at the distribution center at the Oil Products Distribution Company's branch in the the central Euphrates area, Babylon.

The source went on to say: Owners of vehicles operating in the Governorates of al-Basrah, Maysan, Dhi Qar and carrying license plates of other governorates can obtain ration cards from the distribution center at the Oil Products Distribution Company's branch in the southern region, al-Basrah.

Soviet Oil Official Arrives for Visit

JN1910121290 Baghdad INA in English 1130 GMT 19 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, Oct. 19, INA—Mr. Nikolay Luv, undersecretary of the Soviet Oil Industries Ministry, arrived in Baghdad last night leading a delegation on a week-long visit to Iraq.

The Soviet delegation was received at the airport by senior official in the Iraqi Oil Ministry.

Amman Reports Iraqi Deployment of 'Giant' Guns

JN1910175190 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 19 Oct 90

[Text] According to news reports, Iraq is deploying a giant gun, whose range exceeds that of any weapon possessed by the U.S. and allied forces in the Arabian Gulf. The sources said that the Iraqi Army has approximately 200 G-5 155-mm giant Howitzer guns, whose maximum rage is approximately 40 kilometers.

They added that the American warship, Wisconsin, has huge guns, whose range is close to that of Iraq's G-5 guns. They said that these huge guns can fire two shots a minute with a range of about 38 kilometers. But experts said that the Iraqi G-5 gun is easy to maneuver and is more accurate than the other guns.

The editor in chief of the weekly magazine, JANE'S, which specializes in defense affairs, says that the Iraqi G-5 gun is an extraordinary weapon, that there is nothing like it in the Western arsenal, that its accuracy increases with the use of certain types of ammunition, and that it was tested in the battlefield during the Iraq-Iran war. It adds that, in addition to its Soviet- and SFRY-made guns, Iraq has approximately 100 to 200 G-5 guns, 85 French Giat 155-mm guns, and approximately 200 Austrian G-5 N-45 guns.

It should be noted that the giant G-5 gun was invented by the Canadian weapons designer, Gerald Paul, who was assasssinated in Brussels in March last year by Israeli intelligence agents.

Trade Minister Says U.S. Embargo 'Preplanned'

JN1910153390 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1330 GMT 19 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Oct (INA)—Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih has said that the U.S. decision to impose economic blockade on Iraq is inhuman and unjust. He added that this decision was a premeditated attempt to kill all Iraqis, and was planned before August 2, when the United States made the decision to halt the U.S. agricultural loan to Iraq last year at the instigation of the Zionist lobby.

During his meeting today with the delegation of the Iraqi-American society for friendship between the two peoples, led by Dr. Salim Mansur, head of the society, the trade minister added that it has never happened before in international relations that a state claiming to respect human rights and the UN Charters has denied children milk and an entire people food. For, what has happened at the hands of the Bush administration is a preplanned, brutal crime, which clearly exposes the policy of racial discrimination and hostility towards peoples who aspire to freedom and progress.

Dr. Salim Mansur, head of the delegation, expressed his and the delegation's satisfaction with Iraq's initiatives, especially Iraq's readiness to sell its oil to countries and companies wanting to buy it, including the United States, at the price of $21 per barrel, as a contribution to reducing the price of oil to consumers in the world.

Pediatricians Appeal for 'Saving' Children

JN1910151990 Baghdad INA in English 1400 GMT 19 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, Oct. 19, INA—The Iraqi Pediatricians Society demanded concerned human and health organizations to immediately move for saving the Iraqi children from the ongoing unjust blockade.

A message of protest addressed to the director of International Health and the secretary general of Doctors Society in the Middle East stressed that the campaign of starving Iraqi children by America and its allies contradict with the U.N. Charter and the International Child Right Charter.

The society demanded in the name of Iraqi children an immediate intention to implement the principles of the United Nations on the child through just and swift measures to lift the embargo imposed on Iraq. It added that UNICEF Article 6 stresses the international moral responsibility of world countries to cooperate and coordinate their action away from official measures [words indistinct] group of countries.

Ramadan on 'Mother of Battles' With U.S.

JN2110185790 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1636 GMT 21 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Oct (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister, has said that the Iraqis will surprise the United States, its allies, and its Arab slaves in the mother of battles.

During his reception last night of Muhammad Farid Zakariya, deputy leader of the Egyptian Liberal Socialist Party, Ramadan warned that aggressors will face painful results if they insist on the war option. He said that Iraq is capable of destroying the tools of the U.S. and Zionist aggression.

Ramadan also affirmed that the U.S. and NATO forces were deployed in the Arabian Gulf and the Arabian Peninsula by a U.S. decision in order to dominate oil sources and achieve its strategic ambitions in the region and the world.

During his meeting with Jordanian House of Representatives member Yusuf al-'Azm, Ramadan also said that the Security Council had not issued resolutions on sending military forces to the region.

For his part, Muhammad Farid Zakariya said that this battle has separated the courageous Arab leaderships, which believe in the naion's issues, rights, and will from the capitulationist and agent rulers. He stressed that the first Iraqi victory in this duel is the Iraqi people's splendid steadfastness, their challenge to the aggressors and their allies, and their insistence on continuing jihad for the sake of the Arabs' dignity and progress.

During the meeting, Yusuf al-'Azm affirmed that the Arabs, who cooperated with the Zionists and the Americans to desecrate the land of the two holy mosques, are slaves and servants of the colonialist aggressors. He pointed out that the armed military presence on the holy Arab lands violates Islamic law and insults Arabs and Muslims, stressing that Iraq will not be alone in the duel, but will be supported by all good people of the Arab nation.

Spokesman Lauds USSR's 'Respect' for Secrets

JN2010121890 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1134 GMT 20 Oct 90

[Text] A military spokesman has issued a statement expressing the Defense Ministry's great satisfaction at Soviet statements stressing the USSR's respect for contractual and moral obligations in keeping the secrets of the weapons and equipment delivered by the Soviet Union to Iraq. The following is the text:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. There was great satisfaction in Defense Ministry circles following the Soviet statements stressing the USSR's respect for contractual and moral obligations in keeping secrets concerning weapons and equipment delivered to Iraq by the Soviet Union, and commenting on the nature of relations between the Iraqi Armed Forces and the Soviet Armed Forces. This Soviet assertion, apart from preserving the traditions of the relationship between the two Armies and protecting these traditions from tampering, maintains continuing hope for subsequent development of this relationship in the interests of the two countries' Armies and peoples.

Parliamentarians Pledge Solidarity With State

JN1910125690 Baghdad INA in English 1145 GMT 19 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, Oct. 19, INA—The Arab parliamentarians strongly denounced the sinister crime of the Zionists in al-Aqsa Mosque and described it as an attempt to destroy Islamic sanctities and Judaize the holy city of al-Quds [Jerusalem].

In their final statement issued here after their meetings in Baghdad on Thursday, the parliamentarians stressed that what is taking place in the Arab arena was an imperialist attack basically after imposing submissive solutions on the Arab nation.

They stressed that their meeting in Baghdad derives from the reality that the battle of Iraq and Palestine was one and starts from one trench, the trench of honest Arab who are undertaking the defence of sanctities.

The Arab parliamentarians strongly denounced the imperialist economic blockade imposed by the United States on Iraq and considered pursuant resolutions of the Security Council as null and repressive that are not based on international laws or human values.

They also condemned the Zionist imperialist occupation of Arab territories and sanctities in Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] and stressed that withdrawal of foreign troops from the Arab region represents an Arab decisive demand.

The parliamentarians strongly lashed out at some Arab regimes that had expelled Arab nationals residing in their territories and treating them in a manner that does not conform with Arab and human values and norms.

The Arab parliamentarians announced full solidarity and support of the Iraqi people and leadership to defeat the imperialist aggression and breaking the unjust economic blockade.

The parliamentarians also declared their stand alongside Libya in confronting American pressures and appealed to international organizations to work for foiling the American attempts to impose embargo on Jordan, Yemen and Sudan for their stances of backing of Iraq.

The Arab parliamentarians stressed their rejection to the U.S. Proposal to set up security preparations or alliances in the region to protect the aggressive American interests under the pretext of defending the region and protecting its security.

The Arab parliamentarians demanded the U.N. Secretary-General to work for boosting the real role of the United Nations and the Security Council in preserving international peace and security and that the council must resort to justice in issuing its resolutions and dealing with world problems in a balanced manner and not to give in for the American policy which is hostile to the Arab nation and supports the Zionist entity.

The Arab parliamentarians addressed a telegram of appreciation to President Saddam Husayn for his sincere efforts and carrying on the course of struggle until achieving Arab aspirations in liberating the entire Palestine and purging the Arab land from foreign forces.

The telegram said the Iraqi people under your leadership would realize for the Arab nation its real independence and departure from the Zionist and imperialist grip of terrorism and realize for the Palestine people their dignity and independence.

Saddam Blasts Japanese Efforts Toward Mideast

OW2210054290 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 0300 GMT 22 Oct 90

[Text] Iraqi President Saddam Husayn recently granted an exclusive interview to NHK reporters in which he reappraised French President Mitterrand's proposal for a settlement of the Gulf crisis. While showing a flexible stand on settling the issue through dialogue, he criticized Japan's efforts toward the Middle East as acts taken under U.S. pressure. He also said that he could not understand Japan's actions. The interview lasted 80 minutes at the presidential residence in Baghdad on 20 October. [Video shows Husayn seated, speaking to two unidentified Japanese reporters]

On President Mitterrand's proposal, President Husayn said: We can feel, in President Mitterrand's proposal, a positive attitude toward finding a peaceful way to avoid war. Following this remark, he also said that although there are some language differences concerning each individual issue, the proposal can be dealt with in a positive manner. Thus, he highly appraised President Mitterrand's proposal.

While demanding Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait and restoration of Kuwait's sovereignty, the Mitterrand proposal leaves some room for reestablishing the Kuwaiti Government after the restoration of its sovereignty and provides an opportunity to hold discussions at international meetings on the Gulf crisis and the Palestinian issue by linking them together.

Moreover, President Husayn said: We do not refuse dialogue. Good results can be obtained only through dialogue. He thus indicated his stance of breaking the ice through dialogue to find a way out of the situation.

On the release of Western foreign nationals, including Japanese, detained in Iraq as hostages, President Husayn said they will be released only after threats, intimidating acts against Iraq, and the danger of war are removed. He thus indicated again that he is not planning to release all the hostages immediately.

Furthermore, he criticized Japan's efforts toward the Middle East by saying: Japan has pledged to the United States and other countries $4 billion in aid. Japan also plans to dispatch its Self-Defense Forces to the Middle East. Despite U.S. pressure, it is difficult to understand why Japan, which has such a long history and its own culture, is taking such actions.

Delegation To Broach Air Blockade at Meeting

JN1910130790 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1210 GMT 19 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Oct (INA)—A delegation from the Civil Aviation General Establishment left for Montreal today to attend the meetings of the extraordinary conference of the International Air Transport Association, IATA, scheduled to convene there between 22 and 26 October.

The Establishment's director general and head of the delegation told INA that the delegation will propose a working paper on the air blockade imposed against Iraq in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 667, which the United States and its allies played a prominent role in formulating and executing.

Ramadan Calls Arab Tour 'Very Successful'

JN1910120190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1005 GMT 19 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Oct (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council [RCC] member and first deputy prime minister, returned last night to Baghdad following a six-day tour that took him to Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco, Mauritania, and Sudan.

In a statement to IRAQI NEWS AGENCY, Taha Yasin Ramadan said he conveyed messages from President Saddam Husayn to the Arab leaders: Libyan President [title as received] Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid, King Hassan II of Morocco, Mauritanian President Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, and Sudanese President 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir.

He said viewpoints were in agreement over the dangers of the massive armed deployment and fleets in Arab waters and land, which constitute a serious precedent in the Arab nation's history, and the threats of military and external intervention in its domestic affairs.

Taha Yasin Ramadan pointed out that the Arab leaders in Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco, Mauritania, and Sudan realize that the foreign armed presence in the Arab territories aims to threaten Iraq after the Americans and the Zionists and their allies perceived that Iraq had become a military, economic, and technical force which stopped enemies from executing their policies in the region, and which cleared the way for the Arab

nation to rise up again, free itself of subservience and fear, and utilize its wealth for the sake of the sons of the Arab nation to build their countries, which suffer from backwardness and poverty.

He said: The leaders of those countries have stressed the need to continue joint action to find a peaceful settlement in the region and avert the catastrophes of war, which the covetous Americans and their allies in the region are threatening. They also stressed they are against letting the Iraqi people go hungry, and they will not stand idly by if Iraq is subjected to any aggression.

He added: They have also stressed that President Saddam Husayn's initiative of 12 August helped to rejuvenate interest in the Palestine question. They also referred to the broad, positive response to this initiative on the international level, because it contains the objective, fair basis for achieving a full and comprehensive peace in the region.

Taha Yasin Ramadan said his talks with the brother leaders were frank and detailed, and aimed at establishing Arab and international action to face the major threats against the Arab nation in the present and future after the arrival of the fleets and land and air forces which settled in the sacred Arab lands—an action that constitutes a challenge to the will and feelings of Arabs and Muslims.

He said he briefed the brothers on the situation in Iraq and on measures adopted by the Iraqi leadership and people to stand fast in face of the unjust resolutions issued by the United States. He said he also briefed them on the high state of readiness for the military confrontation, should the United States start it, and stressed Iraq's love for peace and adherence to its declared and clear position, represented by President Saddam Husayn's 12 August initiative, and that there is no change in Iraq's declared position.

The RCC member and first deputy prime minister said that Presidents Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, Chadli Bendjedid, Maaouya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, and 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, as well as King Hassan II, have asked him to convey warm greetings to leader President Saddam Husayn; their pride in their ties with Iraq and interest in improving them; their high appreciation of the victories achieved by Iraq and its striking forces in the region, which are a source of strength and pride to all Arabs; and their confidence in Iraq's abilities and huge resources to face all forms of aggression.

He said the results of his visits to these Arab countries were positive and very successful.

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Appointed

JN2110172990 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 21 Oct 90

[Text] A presidential decree was issued today appointing Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf as minister of state for foreign affairs. The following is the text of the decree:

Presidential Decree No. 314: In accordance with the provisions of Paragraph D of Article 68 of the Constitution, we have decided the following:

Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf shall be appointed minister of state for foreign affairs. The competent ministers shall carry out the decree.

Written in Baghdad on 2 Rabi' Thani 1411, corresponding to 21 October 1990.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, president of the republic.

Arab Fatally Stabs Three in Jerusalem

TA2110073090 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 21 Oct 90

[Text] An Arab stabbed to death three people and wounded a boy in the Baqa neighborhood of Jerusalem this morning. The assailant was shot and wounded by a member of the police antiterror unit, but in the ensuing struggle the attacker managed to stab the special unit policeman and kill him, and both were found lying next to each other. The assailant was detained. Our correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports that another fatality was a woman soldier, who was stabbed by the assailant in the initial attack in Naftali Street. He then went to nearby Gid'on Street where he stabbed to death another person, as well as the policeman who wounded him and brought about his capture.

Our correspondent Rina Matzliah reports that the injured boy is hospitalized at Hadassah-'En Kerem and that his condition is not grave. The police have beefed up forces in several Jerusalem areas to prevent a heating up of tempers.

To repeat, in Jerusalem three were murdered: a woman, a policeman, and a third man, while a boy was wounded.

Two Groups Claim Responsibility

JN2110114190 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1100 GMT 21 Oct 90

[Text] Two groups have so far claimed responsibility for the killing of three Israelis in Jerusalem this morning. The first claim comes from a hitherto unknown fundamentalist organization calling itself the Islamic Jihad Movement-the al-Aqsa Battalions [harakat al-jihd al-islami-kata'ib al-Aqsa]. In a telephone call made by an unidentified person, the movement said that it had avenged the al-Aqsa martyrs.

Likewise, AFP received another telephone call from another unidentified person in Jerusalem today claiming responsibility for the killing of the three Israelis. He said he was speaking on behalf of Force 17. Speaking in Arabic, he said that the attack is in revenge for the al-Aqsa Mosque massacre.

Three Israelis were killed and a fourth was wounded in knife attacks this morning by an Arab youth in the Baqa neighborhood south of Jerusalem. Israeli police sources said that the culprit carried out the attacks for nationalist reasons. The police arrested the assailant after they shot and wounded him.

Youth Reportedly Acted Alone

TA2110173190 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 21 Oct 90

[Excerpts] The Arab who murdered three Jews in the Baq'a neighborhood of Jerusalem this morning is 'Amr Sa'id Salah Abu- Sirhan, a 19-year-old resident of ('Abadiyah) in the Bethlehem area. He has cooperated with his interrogators and has told them that he acted on his own to avenge the Temple Mount events. [passage omitted]

The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has imposed a curfew on ('Abadiyah).

Arabs From Territories Banned From Jerusalem

TA2110172390 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 21 Oct 90

[Text] The police commissioner has instructed that beginning tomorrow, Arabs from the territories will not be allowed into Jerusalem. This move was made to prevent attacks and disturbances. The decision was made at a meeting between the commissioner, Jerusalem police commanders, and other senior officers. Our correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports that roadblocks will be erected all over the country tomorrow and that all those wishing to enter Israel from the territories will be inspected. Additionally, patrols in markets, at soldiers' pickup stations, and at public gathering places will be increased to foil attempted attacks.

Shamir on Jerusalem Killings; Blockade of Iraq

TA2110142190 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 21 Oct 90

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has said that the killing of Jews by Arabs is a phenomenon that recurs from time to time, mainly when the Arabs despair over the failure of their terrorist organizations to attain anything. He believes the police should issue special instructions to their personnel on conduct in cases like today's murder. Our correspondent Arye Golan reports that Mr. Shamir was speaking during the cabinet session.

The ministers were told that the economic blockade imposed on Iraq has still not created a serious situation in that country. There is, as yet, no shortage of food or spare parts in Iraq. The fuel rationing was imposed due to the shortage of refined oil products, but there is no fuel shortage.

The cabinet also raised the status of Arye Levin, Israel's representative in Moscow, to that of consul general.

Police Minister Endorses Deadly Use of Force

TA2110120190 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 21 Oct 90

[Report by political correspondent Natan Gutman]

[Text] At the end of today's cabinet session we interviewed Police Affairs Minister Roni Milo. He called for firm and clear-cut action in such cases. Let us hear him:

[Begin Milo recording] I believe we must apply a very firm policy toward any attempt to strike at Israeli security personnel or civilians. I believe in cases like this morning's it is necessary to immediately open fire at the

one who tries to attack a civilian or a security man. Those who come armed with knives, with the intention to kill or attack, must immediately receive a firm and appropriate response by the security forces. [end recording]

Milo also promised to beef up the police deployment in Jerusalem to avoid violence from either side.

District Commander Blamed For Temple Mount 'Fiasco'

TA2110115690 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 21 Oct 90 p 1

[Report by police affairs correspondent Natan Ro'i]

[Excerpt] Ad hoc local incitement was the factor that led to the bloody outburst on the Temple Mount on 8 October and to the death of 21 Arabs. Arabs had not organized in advance, and the event was spontaneous. This is one of the facts emerging from testimonies amassed by the Zamir Committee to date. The committee will conclude its work by the end of this week, when it will submit its findings to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Police Affairs Minister Roni Milo.

The committee has obtained information indicating that the central culprit in the police fiasco on the Temple Mount is Southern District Commander Rahamim Comfort, who is directly responsible for the event.

Comfort, who has been the district commander for the past five years, was supposed to be familiar with the regulations of similar situations. On that sensitive day, when 20,000 Jews prayed in the Temple Mount, he should have been present and active on the site. The testimonies collected by the committee indicate that he did not do so.

The testimonies further indicate that several days before the event, Police Commissioner Ya'aqov Terner had ordered 480 policemen to be sent to Jerusalem, in addition to the 1,500 already there. Over 2,000 policemen were in Jerusalem on the day of the event: 1,100 were assigned to intifadah tasks and 570 to the Old City and the Temple Mount.

According to the testimonies, Rahamim Comfort, the commander of the Police Southern District, and Deputy Commander Arye Bibi, Jerusalem District commander, did not deploy appropriately the police forces they had at their disposal in the Temple Mount and the adjoining area.

As far as is known, there had been no specific intelligence input suggesting that Arabs were planning riots on the Temple Mount. [passage omitted]

Arens Says Wave of Unrest Near End

TA2110184090 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 21 Oct 90

[Interview with Defense Minister Moshe Arens by political correspondent Shlomo Ganor in Arens' office on 21 October—recorded in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles]

[Text] [Ganor] This morning saw another bloody incident in Jerusalem. What is your reaction?

[Arens] It is difficult to conceive of such barbaric acts. It is hard to imagine what man—if you can call him a man—could commit such murders. It is clear to me that the Arab population in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip, the leaders of that population, and the notables there are not doing all that is needed to at least try to prevent such horrendous acts. I also find it hard not to think that the condemnations of Israel in UN institutions are being perceived by people among the Arab population as an encouragement for such acts. Beyond the grief and the regret for what took place here, for the innocent victims, I fear that the ravine of hatred created here would only make it harder for any political process, any reconciliation between Jews and Arabs—who eventually will have to live together in this country—to succeed.

[Ganor] There is a feeling that security in the territories and Jerusalem is deteriorating. Is the defense establishment in control?

[Arens] We are in control. True, after the Temple Mount incidents and the unjustified UN Security Council condemnation of Israel, which twisted reality, we witnessed a wave of unrest in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. I have the feeling that this wave is over, or at least, that we are close to its end, and that we are returning to the state of affairs before the incident, when we had full control.

[Ganor] Does this call for a change in the orders for opening fire, a change in your policy in the territories?

[Arens] I do not think any change is needed. We have good control with the instructions as they are today .

[Ganor] In the cabinet session today, several ministers raised the proposal to change the orders for opening fire.

[Arens] This morning's event was a unique situation. It took place in Jerusalem, where the police are in charge of security. I do not know the exact details of the incident. We need to examine the extent to which the situation could have been different had there been different orders for opening fire. During my term as defense minister—nearly six months—I do not remember any case in the territories where a change in the orders for opening fire could have altered the situation.

[Ganor] What is your reaction to this morning's killing of Dany Sham'un?

[Arens] I was very sorry to hear about that murder. I had the opportunity of meeting Dany Sham'un. I believe he was a man of great potential for leadership in Lebanon. He was the son of Camille Sham'un, one of the best known leaders of the Lebanese people. Here we have an additional example of the barbarism, brutality, the inhumane conduct that, to our regret, is typical of a large part of the Middle East.

[Ganor] Perhaps it is because Israel's silence is misinterpreted?

[Arens] I do not believe there is any connection whatsoever. We are not the ones who could defend Dany Sham'un; this was not our duty. Unfortunately, this should be viewed as another link in the chain of murders that have been committed in Lebanon for years.

[Ganor] Mr. Arens, Israeli-U.S. relations over the past few weeks have been characterized by tension and friction. Are we on the road to confrontation?

[Arens] I do not think so. I believe our relations are founded on a very firm basis. They are based on common values and interests. Thus it is hard to imagine that a confrontation could take place between our two countries. There are currently differences of opinion, but this has happened before, and I presume they will also occur in the future. I am convinced, however, that we know how to handle these differences of opinion, and that we know how to overcome them without affecting the basic relations between the two countries.

[Ganor] Is the period of greatest tension in bilateral relations over?

[Arens] Perhaps right now we can say that it is behind us, but I presume that additional points of high tension will crop up in the future. After all, one cannot expect there to be no differences of opinion when the distance between Jerusalem and Washington is so vast, when the concepts, and sometimes even entire outlooks, are different. As I said before, however, I believe this does not affect the fundamentals underlying the relations between the two countries, which are firm. These are very good relations.

[Ganor] The latest cause for tension between the two countries was the proposal to condemn Israel at the UN Security Council. Will Israel reconsider its position on a delegation on behalf of the secretary general?

[Arens] We have rejected that resolution, and even if at first the Israeli Cabinet's decision may not have been 100-percent clear to certain sectors of the U.S. Administration, it is my impression that as of the past week, or today, thanks to our information activity and the declarations of the Israeli Government's representatives, everyone knows why the Israeli Government was unable to accept this resolution.

[Ganor] How will it be possible to improve bilateral ties?

[Arens] Ties are not only founded on common values and interests; they are also the outcome of contacts between persons, ministers, ambassadors. We now have a new ambassador in Washington, Zalman Shoval. There is no doubt in my mind that he will help improve relations. Our new UN ambassador, Yoram Aridor, will begin his tour there next week. I think we will witness improvements both as a result of these appointments, but, even more importantly, thanks to government activity and that of the prime minister, the foreign minister, and the other ministers.

[Ganor] Mr. Arens, do you have second thoughts about the policy of the low profile you have been maintaining on the Gulf crisis and our relations with the United States?

[Arens] I believe that the term low profile may be misleading. We are not in Saudi Arabia, and we have no wish to be there. If anyone believes that means low profile, let him use the term. I, however, have said before, and I shall repeat it to you: If damage is caused to our interests, if Saddam Husayn dares to attack Israel, our response would not be low profile.

[Ganor] Are we near a solution to the Gulf crisis?

[Arens] It is hard to say. I believe we are closer to it than we were two months ago when the crisis started, in the sense that a large and mighty force has gathered and is deployed in Saudi Arabia, facing the Iraqi Army. There is a coalition that was cobbled together by President Bush. It is a firm and strong coalition. I believe that Saddam Husayn understands that facing him today is a very significant force, and he will have to consider it.

[Ganor] Does this mean that the chances for a military option in the Gulf are lower?

[Arens] I did not say that. Obviously, an attempt is being made to use an economic siege on Iraq. I have heard varying appraisals of the extent to which this blockade is actually damaging the Iraqi economy. There is no doubt in my mind that this blockade would cause damage. I cannot say whether it would take weeks or months, but I have no doubt that the siege, which is very thorough, would damage Iraq's economy, and eventually its ability to fight. I believe that the Americans will make their own judgment of the value of this blockade and, based on it, will decide if and when to launch a military operation.

[Ganor] How would Israel prefer to see this crisis end?

[Arens] We are very interested in a solution. I see no point in advising the Americans on a television program. We are in contact with the Americans, and we are exchanging views and opinions.

[Ganor] Mr. Defense Minister, thank you.

[Arens] Thank you.

On Possibility of Arab Attack

TA1910112290 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 19 Oct 90 p A1

[Report on interview with Defense Minister Moshe Arens by correspondent Eytan Rabin "last night"; place not given]

[Text] "I suppose that the Americans want to find a way to avoid a conflict between Israel and the UN Security Council. We are also interested in finding such a way," Defense Minister Moshe Arens said last night in an interview with HA'ARETZ.

Arens said that Israel is in a state of alert. "The situation in the Middle East in general, and in Israel in particular, is such that the possibility of an attack on Israel by one Arab army or another, or by a coalition of Arab armies, cannot be ruled out. We hear Iraqi spokesmen, including Saddam Husayn, state daily that if fighting starts Iraq would attack us; we are prepared."

The defense minister added: "To the best of my knowledge, Iraq has not yet installed chemical or other warheads on its missiles."

Referring to the cooperation between Iraq and Jordan, and the situation of King Husayn, the defense minister said: "I have not heard that King Husayn has changed his stand on supporting Saddam. I have heard, however, that he said he would obey the UN Security Council resolutions in relation to the blockade of Iraq. I do not know how one can do both at the same time; perhaps Husayn will find a way. Our assessment today is that King Husayn is still in power in Jordan. We wish him all the best and are interested in the stability of his regime."

Arens said that he heard the Egyptians express their disappointment with the PLO and Yasir 'Arafat. Israel is not disappointed to hear that new Egyptian attitude, he said. An announcement on a drastic change in relations between us and the Egyptians cannot yet be made; the relations are still correct.

Referring to the distribution of gas masks, Arens said: "The Israeli public is showing itself at its very best and strongest, even at unpleasant times when it is called upon to register and receive gas masks. There is no panic."

Shamir Says U.S. 'Unreasonable' on Resolution

TA1910101790 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 19 Oct 90 p B1

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by Yosef Harif; place and date not given]

[Text] On Monday, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir sent a message to U.S. President George Bush saying that he was shocked by the Security Council's resolution on the Temple Mount incident. Shamir could hardly conceal his anger at what he termed the injustice of the resolution in which the United States had a part and at "the humiliation added to the damage" to Israel.

On the day the message was sent, President Bush declared: "I want the Security Council resolution to be fully implemented." A day later, Secretary of State Baker used an equally firm tone to reiterate the U.S. demand that Israel fully implement the Security Council resolution.

In a certain way, Baker's remarks were even more serious. They contained a kind of warning that an Israeli refusal is liable to sabotage the U.S. efforts against Saddam Husayn. And anyway, what is Shamir doing talking about injustice, when the Security Council resolution contains a reference to the injury to Jewish worshipers.

[Shamir] How is it that they (the Americans) don't get it? I read the Security Council resolution, and I could not believe my eyes. I rubbed my eyes and read it again. It does not refer to the Temple Mount, but to Haram al-Sharif. And what about the reference to the injury to the worshipers at the Western Wall, which Baker believes is included in the resolution? What is certain is that the resolution speaks of violence at "Haram al-Sharif and other holy sites." Isn't this offensive?

When asked whether he intends to react to Baker's remarks, the prime minister replied: "We will not play ping-pong....Why are they so preoccupied with us? I have the impression that there is nothing they can do about Iraq, and they are embarrassed, and so they busy themselves with us...."

[Shamir] I hate confrontations, and the last thing I want is a confrontation with our friend. But had we accepted that resolution as it is, shortly afterward we would have had to countenance another resolution and another, and the pressure designed to undermine our standing in Jerusalem would have continued. Handle a confrontation? I know it is not simple, but we must stand fast. We have no other choice.

[Harif] Jerusalem believes that Bush and Baker are to a great extent guided by emotions. Judging by the prime minister's remarks, he shares this assessment.

[Shamir] They are furious at us. What do they want from us? Everything is in their hands. "An Israeli refusal is liable to sabotage the U.S. efforts in the Gulf," Washington says. This is just talk. Does anyone interfere with their handling of Iraq?

[Harif] Does Israel have an answer on how to end the argument over the Security Council resolution?

[Shamir] I do not have to rack my brains; let them (the Americans) look for ways. They hold the key which they use to open or to lock, whichever they prefer. This entire affair is their fault.

[Harif] Why?

[Shamir] They proposed that Israel be denounced. This time we cannot say that they were, so to speak, forced to yield to pressures, because they initiated the situation. Perhaps now they will be able to boast to the Arabs. The truth is that the Arabs did not expect it (the kind of resolution that the Security Council endorsed), certainly not the countries which form the "Arab coalition" toward which the United States has shown so much sensitivity. This coalition (Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and Syria) is interested in the elimination of Saddam Husayn even more than the Europeans. And anyway, they (the Arabs) need America more than America needs them. They shake like a leaf, they cannot think of quitting the Arab coalition. Was it not said a few days ago at the White House that there is no danger of the Arabs quitting the coalition?

[Harif] But perhaps the United States' sensitivity and desire to appease its partners in the Gulf, who are severely criticized by radical Arab countries, are understandable?

[Shamir] Suppose this is true. Does the distorted resolution endorsed by the Security Council, which reflects cynicism and disregard for the provocation against Israeli worshipers at the Western Wall plaza, provide the answer? They could have made do with a statement by the Security Council president and be done with the affair. All that was done and said (by U.S. Administration heads) is so unreasonable. They are wrong, they got lost, and they are the ones who are diverting attention from the main issue—the war in the Gulf.

[Harif] The United States was under pressure.

[Shamir] Who pressured it? The Soviet Union has nothing to do with any of this. There was no pressure. Who are they afraid of? Italy and France? There is no pressure; everything depends on them (the Americans) alone.

[Harif] We have linked the fact that the United States took part in the grave Security Council resolution to what goes on in the Gulf. Baker says that even "without Iraq," they would have voted as they did.

[Shamir] On what? What did he vote on? He does not yet know what happened there. We have appointed the best people to form a commission which is looking into the events. They should wait for us to determine what really happened.

[Harif] It appears that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has no illusions about the U.S. Administration, if we are to judge by his remarks at an internal discussion on the recent events, held at his office.

[Shamir] We cannot ignore this administration's attitude toward Israel. We are witnessing a process; the attitude toward us in the case of the Temple Mount event is nothing but an illustration of this process. They (the reference seems to be to Bush and Baker) want to teach Israel a lesson, to put it in its place. I believe they have taken a mistaken approach. They want to teach us a lesson, while they think up all kinds of "coalitions," but on whom will they be able to rely in the event of danger?

[Harif] If another illustration of "the new attitude" toward Israel, mentioned by the prime minister, was necessary, a message came from Secretary of State Baker to his counterpart David Levi: not even one word of appeasement or desire to understand Israel's position. On the contrary, the tone was aggressive, occasionally even threatening, as in that paragraph which has so profoundly annoyed Jerusalem: "...I am worried that if you reject the (UN) delegation, you will focus world attention on Israel and not Iraq....If you reject the resolution, there will be some who will compare you, unjustly, to Saddam Husayn and to his rejection of Security Council resolutions."

[Shamir] We cannot ignore this phenomenon of Secretary of State Baker writing us letters in such a severe and ungracious tone, to say the least.

[Harif] Is Israel indeed incapable of thinking of a way to compromise with the U.S. position in order to end this argument and to make time for the Gulf issues, as Baker wrote?

[Shamir] What can I do? I have no choice. We are not simply being stubborn. Terrible harm is being done to Jerusalem here, and woe is us if we give in. I know what the next step will be if I give in. It will happen at once. There has already been a precedent. We must defend our stands, our existence. Our stand equals our existence: This is the formula. The issue on the agenda is our independence. If we bend, we will suffer a bitter fate. They are in fact telling us that Jews cannot settle in East Jerusalem, which is also "an occupied territory" in the United States' view. What then is the argument about? About accepting an innocuous UN delegation or about the fate of our sovereignty in Jerusalem?

[Harif] You sound angry, and this is not the ideal condition in which to deal with such a complex problem. Don't you agree?

[Shamir] I will not show my feelings, and you can rest assured that I am not impulsive and will not lose my temper. We will act with deliberation and rational consideration only.

Shamir Alleges 'Conspiracy of Silence' on Lebanon

TA1910180290 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 19 Oct 90

[Text] The prime minister is accusing the world of a conspiracy of silence with regard to the massacre of 700 people in Beirut over the last few days. In a meeting with U.S. Jewish leaders, Yitzhaq Shamir stated that this matter is not being discussed either at the UN General Assembly or Security Council, nor in the United States or France.

Shamir expressed appreciation for the way the United States is handling the Gulf crisis, but noted that the United States had erred in joining the UN condemnation of Israel. The prime minister emphasized that Israel is now trying to find a way out of the situation created in the wake of the Security Council resolution, a way which will take Israel's principles into account and maintain Jerusalem's status.

Shamir Not To Request Meeting With Bush

TA2110100690 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 21 Oct 90 pp A1, 8

[Report by Shlomo Shamir and 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Political sources in Jerusalem said that the resolution of the U.S.-Israeli controversy on the UN delegation issue was supposed to pave the way for a meeting between Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and U.S. President George Bush, who have not met in the past year. Shamir, who will travel to the United States early in December, has instructed his aides not to request the White House for a meeting with the President.

Shamir is due to visit New York to receive the Jabotinsky Order decoration. According to his bureau, he will stay two to three days there, and there have been neither plans nor attempts to extend the visit's agenda beyond meetings with Jewish leaders. In his last visit to the United States, Shamir was forced to wait until the last minute for the President's decision to receive him, and he wishes to avoid a similar situation on his next visit. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister on UN, U.S., Arab Affairs

TA1810180190 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 18 Oct 90

[Interview with David Levi, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, by political correspondent Shlomo Ganor and Eli Nisan in the studio on 18 October—recorded in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles]

[Text] [Ganor] Good evening, Mr. Deputy Prime Minister.

[Levi] Good evening.

[Ganor] Mr. Levi, the cabinet decided earlier this week not to accept a delegation on behalf of the UN secretary general; the United States and other countries have urged Israel to reconsider its decision; and the secretary general expects a final Israeli decision tonight. Is Jerusalem contemplating a revision of its resolution?

[Levi] No, because what needs to be revised is the basis on which this delegation was to have come. We have no tradition of rejecting delegations or representatives on behalf of the United Nations or the secretary general. Only two months ago Jean Claude Aime and others visited here, and we accorded them the appropriate honors. We tried to cooperate in every matter for which they came. The present mandate on which this present mission is based exceeded the subject matter itself, breaking dams. In other words, the Security Council here touched upon political issues, political decisions, and it also prejudged and accused Israel, ignoring the fact that the public that came to worship at the holiest site of the Jewish people was innocent and defenseless, that it was attacked without provocation, and that horrendous things could have happened there with the thousands of rocks that were hurled in a sacred place. No believer, much less a Muslim who knows what it means for a person to pray to his God at a holy place, would have accepted this. All this stemmed from a wild instigation which also trampled upon the values of religious belief, the result being that the interest underlying the Security Council resolution was actually to offer payment with Israeli coin to all those partners [in the anti- Saddam coalition] by accusing Israel, terming Jerusalem occupied territory, and even giving the delegation the authority to come up with recommendations and reach conclusions. Had Israel accepted that delegation on this basis, this would have in fact implied acceptance of this big accusation.

[Ganor] So that our response to the secretary general will be negative?

[Levi] We reached a decision. The cabinet adopted, under these circumstances, a resolution that rejects the delegation because of the basis on which it was to have been dispatched. Yet even now, certain activity by U.S. and other representatives is taking place to possibly find some way out. Right now, however, there is no change.

[Ganor] For instance?

[Levi] Let me give you an example: The British foreign secretary visited us here, and suggested this: You may object to all the auxiliary issues—which really go beyond the authority and the subject matter—and accept the delegation. If the Security Council or the UN secretary general are ready to remove all those conditions and merely send a delegation, fine. I as foreign minister can tell you that without the basis of a one-sided accusation of Israel, calling Jerusalem occupied territory, or giving heretofore unknown powers to such a delegation, if these are removed, a new situation will be created.

Note, for instance—and this has angered all of Israel, all the people as one, not just the cabinet—what happened in Lebanon: that terrible bombardment that left hundreds of people dead or wounded and involved the crushing of a sovereign regime: Did the Security Council do anything at all about it? That country's entire freedom became a farce, I would say. But did the Security Council correct anything?

I do not wish to recall other incidents, for example what happened in Mecca, Saudi Arabia, an event which you undoubtedly recall: Hundreds were killed. Did the Security Council intervene? That is the source of our sorrow. There is no nation in the world which grieves more than us over the loss of human life—Arab, Christian, or Jew,

or any man. We have suffered, we know the meaning of suffering. Therefore, any attack against human life—anyone who is killed or wounded—causes us real pain.

Now as regards the Temple Mount, I hope that, despite all the tension, believers will use their ability to reason. I call upon the believers, members of the Islamic faith, and say: This place, Jerusalem, is dear to us all. There is an argument, but if it is dear to us all—and, after all, it is Jerusalem, the city of peace, where we have done more than any other people at any other period to preserve the holy sites and allow every person to observe his religious tradition unimpeded—why should Jews, in their holiest place, access to which was denied them under the Jordanian regime when Jews were not allowed to get near the Western Wall, not now enjoy this right? I say: Respect the place; we do. Every infringement thereof harms us all. This is a place holy to you and us. Let us guard it as the apple of our eye.

[Nisan] Mr. Minister, the impression that has been created is that by opposing the UN secretary general's delegation Israel is trying to conceal something. On the other hand, the prime minister appointed a committee to probe the Temple Mount events. The question, therefore, is why Israel refuses to accept the delegation? Does it have anything to hide?

[Levi] Israel is not hiding anything. To boot, it set up a commission to look into every angle of this issue: What preceded it and what it implies. Israel is a democratic country, and has proved that even when deviant cases hurt or are shocking it still draws the necessary conclusions. This has been proved. There are not many countries like this in the world, not even in Europe. Even what Britain did in the Falklands was not investigated; nor did the press go to probe the events; nor was there anything about which the English democracy said: Let us draw conclusions and investigate the case. We, however, have done this on a number of occasions, even when it shook the system. This is happening even as we speak. Do you know of any other country in which officers and troops with a glorious record of dedication to their homeland and country were put on trial because of aberrant incidents? Here they are often sentenced and their career is shattered. Only a nation which, despite the struggle for its survival, honors its sacred values can have the kind of courage this takes, and we have it. We have nothing to hide. I repeat: What happened here was a terrible and wild attack. They used people—among whom, I have no doubt, were many innocent people—as though this was a holy war. Jews were assaulted, and hundreds could have been killed there. We will investigate this matter.

What are the current charges against us? Why did we not deploy hundreds of soldiers and policemen there? Here is the answer: We were in the midst of a process of easing up, reopening universities, terminating certain practices, and keeping the presence of the security forces to the minimum—the so-called wise-hand policy. We had hoped that perhaps that would make people appreciate our moves, but the instigators regarded this as dangerous; they were afraid this might be appreciated. That is why they preached violence and why this led to a confrontation. This was exploitation.

We object to the delegation's arrival, not because we do not want the matter to be investigated or because we do not want to know what really happened. More than anyone else we want to know the truth. But it is the basis, which implies prejudgment and an anti-Israel sentence followed by an investigation, that is unacceptable. It is like cowboys in the famous movies, when a man was hanged and only later was an investigation carried out on whether or not he was actually guilty.

[Ganor] But this was not enough to convince the United States, which is still demanding that Israel accept the delegation, making this another friction point between Jerusalem and Washington. Is Israel determined to iron out the differences, or does it want to exacerbate the friction with the United States?

[Levi] Look, we have maintained relations of friendship and cooperation with the United States in many areas; we are allies for all intents and purposes, as it is being called. Yet from time to time we have arguments, and sometimes these arguments are bitter.

In the framework of the Security Council, the United States actually wanted to veto an earlier resolution—which was even graver than the one that was ultimately adopted—but it was also forced to raise a proposal that constituted payment for the coalition that has joined it against Saddam Husayn. As for us, despite our friendship with the United States, we are not prepared to be the pawn. I think no self-respecting country would accept demands because of another country's interests, or because the other country happens to be a big country which the other one needs. No.

[Ganor] But this policy of refusing to do something under the terms that are suggested may lead us to a further confrontation with the United States.

[Levi] No, I do not believe there will be a confrontation. Even now you can hear and see the easing of tension. I have been making great efforts to defuse a certain argument and preserve the understanding, dialogue, and friendship that link our two countries.

[Ganor] Is this a mutual effort? Are the two sides interested in lowering tensions?

[Levi] I think so. I heard Mr. Baker at the Senate yesterday, and his tone was different. He actually expressed the wish that the differences of opinion would be resolved through mutual respect and understanding.

[Ganor] Mr. Levi, could a high-level Israeli-American meeting contribute to easing bilateral tension?

[Levi] Such a meeting has taken place.

[Ganor] There has recently been talk about a high-level meeting.

[Levi] I hope so. I think it is natural. This phrase you used: high-level, meaning the U.S. President and the prime minister—this is a natural event, it should not be anything extraordinary. Such meetings have already taken place, and future ones will also take place. Only a few weeks ago I held meetings with the secretary of state. They were good meetings, and they had good and positive results in all areas: in coordination, in the exchange of information, in jointly opposing Saddam Husayn and his aggression, in helping Israel, in economic and housing assistance—in all these areas we created a lovely mosaic, which sometimes has a slight shadow which we must work to remove.

[Ganor] Regarding the housing aid, there are undeniable misunderstandings, which obligated you to send a clarification message to your U.S. counterpart this morning. What did you explain?

[Levi] Yes, but even before the message arrived Mr. Baker put things straight at the Senate. He erred, he slipped. This can happen to any politician. But here what happened was a case in which they said: Let us jump on this opportunity and highlight things that were not included in the letter even before it has been read. Such a mode of action, common among political elements, including my colleagues....

[Ganor, interrupting] You mean your Israeli colleagues?

[Levi] Yes, definitely—and incidentally, they are all anonymous. So I say to them and to the media: Fine, but you should have enough respect for yourselves, my friends the members of the press. If someone wanted you to serve as a conduit to convey a message, leaving him unnamed—then let him remain without an identity as well as without a message to convey. It is essential for democracy's well-being that when someone has something to say he should say so up front. If someone is not prepared to assume responsibility for his comments, then his remarks are baseless. This is a lesson I try to teach all politicians.

Thus, today I sent a message to Mr. Baker. I explained everything and put everything straight so that there will not be foreign interpretations. I made no commitment, whether explicitly or by implication, that construction in Jerusalem will end, or that there will be an infringement of Jerusalem's status, or that I would condone intervention in cabinet resolutions on settlement. This does not exist, and never existed. Therefore, all this is a figment of the imagination.

[Ganor] So you assume that this affair and the issue of U.S. loan guarantees for the construction of housing in East Jerusalem have been struck off the agenda?

[Levi] I have every confidence that the issue will be resolved very soon, and my explanation is anchored in a letter I had written and in a letter Mr. Baker had written to me, as well as in the minutes of our conversations.

[Nisan] Mr. Levi, does the current friction between Jerusalem and Washington not warrant a change in the low-profile policy which Israel has assumed since the outbreak of the crisis in the Gulf?

[Levi] This is a good question. But what is a low-profile policy? Just imagine if we had done what we should have done. When the one who issues the threats says he will apply laws worse than the law of the jungle to us and will burn Israel down, when he positions his weapons of mass destruction directly against us—the same weapons he used against his own people, killing thousands of Kurds and Iranians—any responsible government, every other country facing such a direct threat would have taken the necessary steps, but we have not because we do not want anyone to accuse us of pushing others into war instead of us. Never. The so-called free world adopted a resolution, and this is its own sovereign resolution. On the other hand, we also do not want to be accused of sabotaging their efforts, allowing them to say: We formed a blockade, and look what Israel did.

We are aware of the dangers, and they are horrible. Incidentally, they are not only a threat to Israel, but also to other regional regimes. We are dealing here with an aggressive tyrant whom the world had helped at the time, thinking it was curbing Khomeyni and not realizing that it was creating a monster that threatens and crushes the freedom of those who financed its war against Khomeyni.

That is why we say: If the world has an account to settle with Iraq—fine, let it do its own job. Maintaining a low profile involves responsibility. It requires close scrutiny and monitoring of developments, and necessitates action as warranted. Should we feel that he is about to do anything that would harm our security, he will be dealt a painful and decisive blow.

Consequently, our low profile does not mean diminishing, certainly not lowering, our security level. We are letting others do their thing, period.

[Nisan] Mr. Levi, if things lead to a military confrontation in the Gulf, God forbid, will Israel necessarily be dragged into it?

[Levi] Israel is concerned about its own security, and does not fight others' wars or ask others to fight its own wars. We have never approached any country—friendly though it may be—with a request for soldiers to fight our wars. All our wars were forced upon us. We hate war, but if we are in danger, we will know how to react, and we will react in a way that will be extremely painful to the aggressor.

[Nisan] Mr. Levi, on Saturday we saw Syria enter Beirut, but Israel never uttered a protest. Does its silence imply tacit acceptance of what took place there?

[Levi] Israel has certain parameters which it regards as a red line insofar as its security is concerned. It guards

these parameters carefully. The Syrians know this too, as does every other element. If these parameters are transgressed, it means that those who do so have decided to test Israel's tolerance. This constitutes an affront to Israel's security, and those who do so assume a tremendous responsibility. I believe the Syrians have so far acted responsibly and have honored the confines of these parameters. I am convinced they will continue to behave this way and will not be tempted to test Israel, because its reaction will be sharp.

[Nisan] Did their entry into Beirut not constitute a change in the status quo, requiring an Israeli....

[Levi, interrupting] No, no. We never stipulated that Beirut is our red line. Our red lines are very well known, to both the Syrians and all the other elements. Of course, the question can be asked whether Israel should always intervene in Lebanese affairs, even when the Christians themselves are so divided. I do not think so. But if the movement approaches a certain parameter or starts to menace a certain line, this will turn on the red light. I hope the others will not cross that line.

[Ganor] Could these agreements with Syria—which were at least tacit—lead, instead of a confrontation and the issue of strategic parity, to something more positive, say in the direction of a peace process?

[Levi] This has been the policy of all of Israel's governments; it is our policy as well, and I repeat it: We have wars, we do not regard our victories in the wars as an achievement. Every war involves blood and loss of life. It means orphans and bereavement, followed by a terrible suffering of nations paying the price for war. When we are forced to fight for our security, we have no other choice, and we must emerge victorious—as, incidentally, will be the case in the future as well. But every effort should, at the same time, be made to prevent war and reach a dialogue without preconditions—certainly with respect to Syria. This has been our desire and, from my point of view, this is a one of the guidelines in the cabinet's policy. I only wish we would reach a state of affairs in which Syria would realize that it is necessary to end the state of war with Israel and sit down with us around the negotiating table without preconditions.

[Ganor] Can you notice a change in Syrian attitudes?

[Levi] I would like to hope so. There have been tiny, vague signs of this. I think they should be encouraged. I cannot say with certainty, I do not know about the Syrian Government's strategy. It has thus far waved the banner of strategic parity, but I think al-Asad thus mortgaged Syria's entire economy and the progress of his nation. There is no point in such an arms race, involving such astronomical sums which encumber the people's future for decades. One must consequently keep one's eyes open and look at the future. Israel cannot be defeated, not because we have lost our minds, but because we think and act in two directions: First, we believe in the justness of our cause, and secondly we believe in our ability to defend ourselves—and ours is a great power. I only hope we will never have to use it and will be able, instead, to disarm and reach peace. This is our aspiration.

[Nisan] Mr. Minister, Jordan continues to support Iraq, with everything that this support entails. What does the Israeli Government have to say to this?

[Levi] Well, the situation with Jordan is a bit sad in the sense that this marks a change in the king's line, which had heretofore been a pro-Western line. Now, however, he has surrendered himself totally to a line that he had opposed until not too long ago. Whether this enhances the viability of his people and his rule is for him to decide. We are interested in stability in Jordan. We share our longest border with Jordan. With Jordan we have what is known as a common life line and ties. We made sure, well in advance, that the king got our message that Israel wants peace with Jordan, that Israel was interested in continued stability in Jordan, that we have nothing against him or his monarchy or the Jordanian people. I sent a message via the Italian foreign minister, Mr. de Michelis, whom I asked to deliver it. He furthermore told me that the content of the message satisfied the other side. I saw fit at the time, after having heard all sorts of declarations from Jordan alleging that Israel was threatening it—and this is far from the truth—to put an end to this and moreover deliver a direct message and supply international proof attesting to Israel's intentions. I hope reason will prevail and that the king will maintain control over things, so that Jordan will enjoy a new era of peace and development. This is our aspiration.

[Nisan] Did that strike the right chord with the monarch?

[Levi] I believe so. Whether this will lead him to distance himself from Saddam Husayn or to disengage from the very same elements which until just recently wanted to eliminate him, elements to which he is currently offering his country as a place to operate from and concentrate in—an amazing thing from his standpoint—is a moot point. Undoubtedly he realizes the implications of all this. It is not our job to judge him. That is why I said that the situation was sad. I cannot say that we are furious with him, or angry with him, or that we will take this or that action. No. We are interested in calm and stability in Jordan and, we also hope, in political and social sensibility in Jordan to help strengthen a regime which will preserve stability and which will not push Jordan into a whirlpool that would present it with difficulties from every angle.

[Ganor] Last night it was reported that Egypt and Syria were discussing the notion of a representation for the Palestinians in the territories without the PLO. According to these reports, this proposal was transferred to Israel. As foreign minister, can you confirm this report?

[Levi] I cannot address any report, I can only say that we desire, more than anyone else, to reach a settlement. Our problem is twofold [as heard]: We have the Palestinian problem, which we want to solve. I personally certainly want us to embark on the right path. I would like us to

start to sit together as cultured people and think about tomorrow and our children. I wish all the bloodletting and the consuming hatred which endangers the future of all of us will end. Not that this can harm Israel or its ability. No. But I believe that life is people, that one should have compassion for the other, think what one can do for the other, and consider the kind of message about his own situation that the other side gets. I am interested in a settlement. Of course, if someone should come and say that that settlement entails capitulation to terrorism, then I would tell him: No. The day we surrender to terrorism will be the end of us all.

The Israeli Government came up with its own political initiative, which is still valid. It is alive. That program offers the Arab residents of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza what no other regime before the Israeli one has ever offered them: to be partners in determining their own future, to elect their representatives through a vote. Naturally we will under no circumstances agree to let those people live in terror, or allow the PLO to kill more than the 320 Palestinians who have so far been murdered. But if they accept the Israeli initiative, they are welcome to sit, declaring that they accept the initiative. Then we can together sit and seek a way. I believe in that.

[Nisan] Sir, if a message in this vein is conveyed to the Israeli Government, how will it react?

[Levi] If such a suggestion is made, I say no to the PLO. I do not believe that capitulation to terrorism is a sign of political wisdom; it is capitulation that calls for further capitulation. There can be no peaceful coexistence with terrorism. I call upon those people who want peace and support the initiative in all its parts to find the partners. I tell them: Let us think about and discuss our two nations' common tomorrow. Whether Jewish or Arab, they are the same children with their dreams, pain, and hope. Let us give them hope. Perhaps neither of us will be able to attain all we want, but let us talk, converse, embark on the right course, the path of life. This is my call.

On the other hand, I repeatedly told the Americans and the Soviets: You think Israel can solve the problem, which it must solve, and yet you allow the Arab countries to claim that they are out of this and have nothing to do with it, and that we here must terminate the state of war at home. Well, I told them: If you continue the arms race and do not stop fighting Israel, we will never reach such an era or solution. The state of war must end, and Israel's hand extended in a warm offer of peace will meet with a warm Arab hand that wants peace. Together let us determine a better future for our children after us.

[Ganor] Mr. Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, it behooves us only to end this program on such an optimistic note. Thank you for participating; and thank you, my colleague Eli Nisan.

[Levi] Thank you.

Foreign Ministry Would Allow Aime Visit

TA2110061190 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 21 Oct 90

[Interview with Foreign Ministry Director General Re'uven Merhav by political correspondent Arye Golan, place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Golan] Mr. Merhav, the UN proposal to dispatch a delegation to investigate the condition of the Palestinians: Is it possible that we will propose that it will be received here, but only after the Zamir committee [investigating the 8 October Temple Mount killings] presents its conclusions?

[Merhav] UN officials—and here we have to completely differentiate between regular contacts with the United Nations, which as you know has many people in Israel—are always going on. People come and go. Next week the head of the UN observers team ends his tour of duty here. UN Relief and Works Agency employees come all the time. It is possible that in the final analysis somebody will come and will hold talks, but certainly without any to-do with a delegation or supervision, but as part of regular contacts with the UN, which have been going on for dozens of years. We talk to them all the time on the situation in the region. It is inconceivable that anybody would in any way talk to them as a delegation or tribunal or court. That is something that could not happen. I tell you also as a public servant that I believe we acted correctly.

[Golan] You say that if the UN secretary general's aide comes, let us say it is Jean-Claude Aime, who is always the one mentioned in such contexts, then can he come, and will he be received?

[Merhav] Of Jean-Claude Aimee's 50-odd years of life he has spent some 10 years in the region. He has worked in Lebanon and Jordan, and comes here from time to time, and we have never banned him from coming. If in several months' time he wants to come to the region and meet people here, he can. For example, the head of the UN observers' team is being replaced in two weeks; if he wants to come and meet with him he can.

Paper Says Proposal on Envoy Acceptable to U.S.

TA2110094890 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 21 Oct 90 p 1

[Report by Washington-based correspondent Yo'el Esteron and Ilan Kfir]

[Text] In contacts held in the past two days in Washington and New York, Israel has proposed that an envoy on behalf of the UN secretary general arrive in Israel after the investigatory committee into the Temple Mount events submits its findings. The compromise proposal suggests that the committee's report be relayed for the UN secretary's perusal, and that the latter then send his representative to seek "clarifications." This

compromise is acceptable to the U.S. Administration, on the condition the UN secretary general agrees to it, too.

Jerusalem estimates that the United States will not support proposals to impose sanctions on Israel in the wake of its refusal to accept a UN delegation. It is further believed that the issue of the dispatch of a UN delegation to probe the Temple Mount events has been taken off the agenda for the time being.

Hurd Discusses Canceled Meeting With PLO

TA1910160790 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 18 Oct 90 p 11

[Interview with Douglas Hurd, British secretary of state for foreign and commonwealth affairs, by Khalid Abu-'Akr and Khalil Tuma on 17 October; place not given]

[Text] [AL-FAJR] What is your comment on the decision by Palestinian figures to boycott the meeting with you because of statements attributed to you by the Israeli news media?

[Hurd] What the Israeli news media attributed to me—to the effect that Britain opposes the establishment of a Palestinian state—is not correct. Our position has not changed. We give preference to the right to self-determination for the Palestinian people, whether this would lead to a Palestinian state or not. This is not something that concerns us. This matter can be resolved through negotiations.

It is unfortunate that the Palestinian notables relied on these incorrect reports—which they know are incorrect—and used them as a pretext to cancel the talks. I was looking forward to hearing the views of your readers, the views of West Bank residents. Now I am unable to do so. I will return to London without hearing their viewpoints. All this because the false report was believed.

It was a false report. I am sorry, because this deprived me of a unique opportunity to hear the views of key Palestinian figures in the occupied territories.

[AL-FAJR] Do you believe there is a difference of opinion between the residents of the occupied territories and the PLO?

[Hurd] I cannot say this. I have always said that the PLO has an impressive influence in the occupied territories. I believe that it committed a great mistake in supporting Saddam Husayn. When it protests the occupation of the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and East Jerusalem, I wonder how it can find an excuse for the occupation of an Arab country. This is illogical. Therefore, it was a mistake.

I am sure that the PLO will continue to have influence and importance in the West Bank. I have relayed this impression to the Israelis.

[AL-FAJR] From the statements attributed to you, it is understood that you are encouraging Israel to seek Palestinians to engage in talks with it, instead of the PLO.

[Hurd] The term that I always use is Palestinian representatives, which means persons who represent the people. It is not good for Israel to engage in dialogue with Palestinians who do not represent the people. There must be someone, but it is not for me to choose them.

[AL-FAJR] You have said in previous remarks, and so have other British officials, that the PLO has a role to play. Do you still believe this?

[Hurd] Yes I do, but I believe that it has committed a great mistake.

[AL-FAJR] Do you then believe that the PLO may be the Palestinian people's representative?

[Hurd] I am not saying who represents the Palestinians. What I am saying is that the PLO has a role to play. This is the term that I use.

[AL-FAJR] What is the nature of this role?

[Hurd] The PLO has a role, and I believe it cannot be ignored. I have always said this, but I think that the PLO has undermined its position because of its support for the "aggression" against Kuwait. I find this difficult to understand.

[AL-FAJR] The Palestinian residents have been amazed by your treatment of the Israelis. It is understood that you have been telling them that it is possible to reject Security Council Resolution 672, while at the same time dealing with the delegation that the UN secretary general is to dispatch. This, despite the fact that you dealt with Iraq and the Gulf crisis with strong and firm language. What is your comment on these dual positions?

[Hurd] Please read the resolution ratified after the events of the killings at al-Aqsa again. The Israelis did not approve of some of the resolution's introductory paragraphs. There are two mandatory paragraphs. One calls on Israel to abide by and behave according to the Geneva Conventions. The other, which is the principal one, welcomes the UN secretary general's request to send a mission. What I said to the Israelis is that you should receive the mission. As to the introductory paragraphs, you can either accept or reject them. They have been approved by the Security Council. The important thing now is that you accept the mission. You are not obliged to accept the introductory paragraphs if you don't want to. You may argue about them. They are not obligatory, but what you should do is receive the mission. It is not in your interest to have the only investigation conducted by the Israeli Government. Allow this mission to come here and allow the secretary general to do his work. Let Israel permit this and let the others cooperate on this. What is important for me, from various viewpoints, is that the mission should arrive and accomplish its work. This is the point that I am trying to explain to Israel.

[AL-FAJR] Then how can you force Israel to receive the mission?

[Hurd] We have to try and convince them to receive it.

[AL-FAJR] Reports have indicated that, in a message to the U.S. President, the Israeli prime minister expressed Israel's refusal to receive the mission. How do you see this?

[Hurd] Yes, this certainly was the initial decision of the Israeli Government. Until yesterday, Tuesday, I did not get the impression that they will change their positions. Therefore, I tried to argue with them, as the Americans are also doing, to induce them to alter their position toward receiving the mission. This is also in their interest. Therefore, there is still enough time for doing this. This is my message to them.

[AL-FAJR] In light of the unanimous decisions adopted against Iraq at the Security Council, can we, as Palestinians, expect similar resolutions to be adopted against Israel because of its refusal to implement the recent Security Council Resolution?

[Hurd] The resolutions pertaining to the Arab-Israeli conflict are 242 and 338. There are other resolutions which have to be implemented by everyone. This means reconciling between the Palestinians' rights, which Israel does not accept, and Israel's security and need for recognized and secure borders, which the Arabs do not recognize. For the Security Council resolutions on the Arab-Israeli conflict to be implemented, these two things have to be reconciled. This is what the world has been trying to do for some time now, and we have to resume this work. The reason I brought up this subject is that, as you may have noticed in recent weeks, the main obstacle has been the "aggression" against Kuwait, because it is an impediment to addressing the Arab-Israeli conflict. When an Arab country withdraws from another Arab country, we will return to this problem—the problem of the Palestinians' rights and security for Israel. I advise the Israelis to formulate new ideas on this problem so that we will not return to the same stalemate to which you have become accustomed. This also requires new thinking on the part of the Palestinians and the PLO.

[AL-FAJR] But why should the Palestinian problem not be resolved simultaneously with the efforts being exerted now to resolve the Gulf crisis?

[Hurd] Look at the Middle East; it is divided. Some of the Arabs support Iraq, while others strongly oppose it. There is no basis for an initiative at present. Saddam Husayn has rendered this impossible. We should not consign the Palestinian problem to oblivion. When the time comes, we must return to this problem, but not today. An initiative cannot succeed as long as the aggression against Kuwait goes on. What the Palestinians should do is concentrate on ending the aggression, and then applying pressure on the international community to return to the Palestinian problem—the Arab-Israeli conflict. This is the correct order of events. The attempt to address both issues simultaneously in the Arab world is currently fruitless. The PLO is at present unacceptable to many Arab countries. It has committed a great mistake.

[AL-FAJR] But there is a Palestinian initiative, announced by the PLO, for a peaceful resolution of the Gulf conflict without sending military forces, in return for an Iraqi withdrawal.

[Hurd] If you were to look at the Arab League resolutions, you would clearly see that they call for an unconditional withdrawal and the restoration of the Kuwaiti Government. We add to this, as has the Security Council, the release of all hostages. Mr. 'Arafat's plan was confusing, because it asked us, and also the world, to reward Saddam Husayn for his "aggression." I find this odd. I believe that the position adopted by the majority of Arab League countries is positive and clear.

[AL-FAJR] Are you not thinking, against the background of the al-Aqsa massacre, about exploring ways to protect Palestinian civilians, especially since Britain is one of the major countries that has signed the Fourth Geneva Convention on human rights?

[Hurd] It is true that protection must be provided to the residents of the occupied territories through this Convention. Hence, the first paragraph of the Security Council Resolution referred to this matter clearly and called on Israel to implement it. There is disagreement about the facts at the al-Aqsa mosque. For this reason, the Security Council wisely called for the dispatch of a mission that would prepare a report, which would then be relayed to the Security Council by the secretary general. If this proved true, then the international community would have to apply pressure to secure the rights of the residents in the occupied territories and protect them as called for by the Geneva accords.

[AL-FAJR] After what has happened, do you still think that Israel can protect Palestinian civilians?

[Hurd] I, personally, do not think that all the conditions of occupation—and the present relationship between the Palestinians and Israel—are the right ones. Of course, they are not. I have heard criticism in Israel about the remarks which I have made on many issues, such as the closure of schools and collective punishment, which in my opinion indicate that Israel is not behaving correctly, but the response to this would be to seek a settlement that would end the state of occupation.

[AL-FAJR] Until a settlement is found, do you think that Israel is able to protect Palestinian civilians after what happened at al-Aqsa, and before that in Rishon Leziyyon and other places?

[Hurd] Israel has undertaken to do so. As to the recent killings, we are reminding Israel of this undertaking. It was decided that a mission be sent so that it would become acquainted with the background.

[AL-FAJR] The Palestinians believe that international forces should be dispatched in order to protect civilians.

[Hurd] I do not think that this is practical. What we should do is seek a settlement that would end this crisis. In the meantime, there will be a period in which the occupation continues. During this period, we have to remind Israel of its commitments, as we have to remind any occupation authority in the world that it should abide by the Geneva accords toward those people whose towns, lands, and villages it occupies. It has been reminded often.

U.S. Navy Cited for Dumping Suspicious Cargo

JN2010070390 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 20 Oct 90 p 1

["Special to the JORDAN TIMES" by Caroline Faraj]

[Text] Amman—American warships recently intercepted a Cypriot ship heading for al-'Aqabah and dumped part of its cargo into the sea, informed sources said.

The ship, carrying goods from the Far East to Jordan and Iraq, had discharged goods bound for Iraq at Hudaydah port in Yemen under the supervision of U.S. Navy, which gave the captain a certificate to the effect that the goods destined for Iraq were seized, according to the source.

The ship then headed towards al-'Aqabah and while near the Saudi port of Jeddah it was intercepted by U.S. warships, which gave it the go-ahead sign because it was found out that it did not carry anything violating the sanctions, the sources said.

While passing near the Tiran Straits, an American destroyer—bearing number 34 on its hull—stopped it on Sept. 11, and an American Navy officer went aboard, searched it, examined the cargo and checked it against the log book, the sources said.

After the search, the officer reported that the cargo does not conform with the manifest although he was presented with a certificate that the goods bound for Iraq were discharged at Hudaydah.

The officer did not listen to the argument and ordered a cargo of steel pipes dumped overboard.

The order was carried out.

To waive their responsibility for what happened to the cargo, the ship's crew recorded all the events and took photos of the dumping of the cargo into the sea, the sources said.

The U.S. Embassy in Amman said it was not aware of any such incident. In a written statement, the embassy quoted the U.S. Central Command in Saudi Arabia as saying: There is no U.S. Navy ship operating in the Gulf area with hull number 34. There has never been an instance of U.S. Navy personnel boarding a ship and dumping cargo. We are not aware of any similar actions by other navies supporting the interception programme. Such an action is contrary to established guidelines and is not permitted."

The statement added that the U.S. policy permits merchant ships bound for a non-prohibited port to be diverted if the boarding party finds discrepancies between the statements of ship's master, licensing, registration, log information, cargo manifest, and its actual cargo.

Further on Cargo-Dumping

JN2010080590 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 20 Oct 90 pp 24, 30

[By Caroline Faraj]

[Text] U.S. haughtiness toward Jordan has not been confined to intercepting merchant ships bound for the port of al-'Aqabah, changing their course, or ordering them to return, but has gone beyond that to dumping their cargo into the sea contrary to international laws and norms!

Since the beginning of the Gulf crisis, the United States has been playing the role of world policeman, making accusations against and throttling any country that disobeys their orders. These hostile measures and behavior against Jordan are aimed at putting pressure on this country, starving its people, and destroying its economy until it obeys U.S. orders.

Despite the fact that Jordan has clearly announced on more than one occasion that it is honoring and implementing UN resolutions and is asking the United Nations at the same time to be fair and apply international justice to it under international law, unfortunately the United States, I mean the United Nations, believes that the time has not yet come to be fair to Jordan in particular!!!

It is noticeable that there is a big gap between international law and international justice. The common factor between the two is that both are directed by the United States and everybody else has to obey orders!!!

AL-RA'Y managed today to obtain documents and photos proving to the whole world that the one imposing international laws and ordering the world to implement them, namely the United States, is itself casting these laws aside and seeking to achieve its personal aims by destroying Jordan until it obeys the orders of the world policeman!!

The continuing U.S. attempts to put pressure on Jordan, starve its people, and destroy its economy are related by the ship "Aris." This ship, which is piloted by a Soviet crew, was on its way to al-'Aqabah from the Far East carrying goods for Jordan and Iraq. It arrived at the Yemeni port al-Hudaydah and unloaded its Iraq-bound cargo in accordance with the boycott being applied under the supervision of the U.S. military forces. The ship's captain was given a receipt for the impounded cargo and ordered to continue his journey, since what was left on the ship were goods for the private sector in Jordan.

As the ship set sail from the Port of al-Hudaydah, U.S. warships allowed the captain to continue his journey, since the ship's cargo conformed to the law and did not violate the economic boycott decision.

However, when the ship approchaed the Straits of Tiran on 11 September 1990 where three U.S., French, and Spanish destroyers were deployed, a U.S. destroyer or warship bearing the number 34—as recorded in the

ship's documents which were signed in the handwriting of a U.S. officer—ordered the ship to stop for a final check of its cargo!!

The Soviet captain stopped the engines, according to the instructions, and the U.S. military officer went aboard and asked for the log and the manifest which contains a list of the cargo, its type, weight, size, the name of the shipper, and the destination. Although the Soviet captain presented to the American officer a certificate that the goods bound for Iraq were discharged at al-Hudaydah port and the order of the American warships themselves giving him the go-ahead sign, the American officer wrote in the ship's log that there is a discrepancy in the information recorded in the manifest and decided to seize it in implementation of the embargo resolution issue by the United Nations, according to what the American officer registered in the ship's log.

What does the issuing of a decision by a U.S. Navy officer to seize goods mean?

A senior Jordanian shipment agent told AL-RA'Y that usually when U.S. Navy forces search the ships heading for Jordan, they check the logbook. If they suspect that some goods bound for Jordan are for Iraq in light of the personal assessment of the American masters, they intercept the ship, search it, and the captain is be asked either to head for another port to discharge the goods, or to bring official evidence from the owners of the ship showing that the goods are really bound for Jordan.

When the U.S. Embassy in Jordan was asked about the measures that are taken in such cases, Jonathen Owen, the embassy's official spokesman, only gave me a copy of the commentary made by the U.S. Department of State issued on 29 August in Washington. The commentary provides the following: We advise all shipment lines to ascertain that the ships heading for the ports in the region do not carry goods bound for Iraq, since this contradicts UN Security Council Resolution 661. It is most probable that the course of the ship suspected of carrying such goods will be obstructed or diverted.

But what is really strange in the decision of the U.S. officer regarding the goods that were official proven to be bound for Jordan is that this officer was not satisfied with interception, but went beyond that and ordered a cargo of different goods to be dumped into sea. The third officer of the [merchant] ship registered this in his records and logbook; and a crew member immediately took photos of what the American forces were doing to evade responsibility to the ship owners and the importers of the goods.

When Mr. Owen was asked about the legality of the measure taken by a U.S. Navy ship in the Gulf, he asked for time to address the concerned parties in his country and to officially respond to AL-RA'Y questions. The following day he sent to the paper this response, the text of which we have translated:

With reference to your question, we have received the following statement from the U.S. Central Command in Saudi Arabia:

"There is no U.S. Navy ship in the Gulf area with number 34. There has never been an instance of U.S. Navy personnel boarding a ship and dumping its cargo. We are not aware of any similar actions by other fleets supporting the interception program. Such an action is contrary to established guidelines and is not permitted. Although we cannot link the available information on a real interception operation, the policy permits merchant ships bound for a non-prohibited port to be diverted if the searching team finds discrepancies between the statements of the captain of the ship, the information on licensing, registration, log information, cargo manifest, and its actual cargo."

A Jordanian expert on international law told AL-RA'Y that there is a big gap between the application of international law and the achievement of international justice, especially where humanitarian considerations are concerned.

He said the UN Security Council resolutions on the application of the economic blockade provide for the need to use minimum force. Resolution 661, he added, does not give any single state the right to implement the blockade unilaterally.

He also pointed out that Resolution 661 was not based on clauses 39 and 41 of the UN Charter concerning the adoption of military measures in the air, on the ground, and in the sea, although the blockade is an act of war.

The legal expert added that during war certain regulations have to be applied concerning goods being shipped to the other side, which in this case is Iraq. The humanitarian considerations stipulated in The Hague agreement of 1907 and the Geneva Convention of 1949 make a distinction between goods being shipped to a government and goods being shipped to individuals.

According to these two agreements, the expert continued, if the goods are consigned to individuals, then they cannot be disposed of for humanitarian considerations. However, the agreements also say that all this depends on war exigencies; in other words, the matter is left to the discretion of the officer himself.

The expert pointed out that behavior leading to the damage of private property is essentially the result of individual responsibility, and this is how we should view the U.S. officer's action in disposing of goods imported by the Jordanian private sector!!

The strange thing is that the U.S. officer was not satisfied with that. He also asked the ship's captain to refuel after the ship exhausted its fuel after being made to stop at other ports, although its original destination was the port of al-'Aqabah. Finally, the ship was given permission by the same officer to continue its journey. This led to a delay in its arrival at the port of al-'Aqabah. The ship arrived on 21 September 1990.

Nevertheless, the U.S. State Department announced in a 29 August statement that the United States had no intention to delay the arrival of goods and passengers to Jordan; in fact, U.S. dealings with other governments, international shipping lines, and others would be to guarantee that there would be no interference with legitimate trade to Jordan in any form whatsoever.

I believe that what former U.S. President Jimmy Carter said to the media recently concerning his country's policy explains this strange behavior toward Jordan. Carter said: "I believe we are trying to destroy Jordan."

The question now is: How long will the world policeman (the United States) go on throwing its weight around and controlling the interests and destinies of nations and individuals as he wishes without being made accountable for its actions?

I wonder—will Jordanian importers, whose goods were dumped into the sea or destroyed and damaged at different ports, be able to appear before courts and demand their legal rights and compensations in the future?

The answer may be clear, especially since the criminal and the judge are one; namely, the world policeman!!!

Columnist Urges UN Session

JN2110120890 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 21 Oct 90 p 20

["Everyday" column by Tariq Masarwah: "U.S. Terrorism and the Counterweapon"]

[Text] We do not know what is preventing our government from calling an immediate meeting of the UN Security Council [UNSC] to examine the blockade which the U.S. and Atlantic fleets are imposing on the Port of al-'Aqabah, U.S. warships' blatant encroachment on the freedom of navigation in international waters, and forcing merchant ships of different nationalities to unload Jordanian imports at the Port of Jeddah in particular!

What the U.S. and Atlantic warships are doing is tantamount to a declaration of war on our country!

The Security Council has not empowered the U.S. Navy to enforce the blockade on anyone. The Security Council has also not declared a blockade on Jordan. So, why are the U.S. and allied fleets intercepting ships bound for the Port of al-'Aqaba? Why are merchant ships forced to unload their cargoes at the Port of Jeddah and Port Said in particular? And, why do the authorities at these ports impound Jordanian goods?

All these questions lead us to one answer: It is punishment of Jordan for its political stand and refusal to support the U.S.- Atlantic invasion of the Gulf region. It is an attempt to destroy the Jordanian economy and our people's free well and brave leadership.

There is nothing to prevent us from calling a meeting of the UN Security Council today. There is also nothing to prevent us from lodging a complaint exposing the U.S. and Atlantic fleets' encroachment on the freedom of navigation in international waters, and the American "new order" which is based on aggression, threats, and military force. The piracy and harassment, as reported and photographed in AL-RA'Y yesterday, have a price. If the government fails to defend the interests of Jordanian citizens, our people will know how to defend their interests. Our people know a thousand and one ways of securing their rights from the Americans by hook or crook!

Going along with U.S. piracy and harassment pending the payment of compensation by the United Nations and its committees, which are dominated by the United States, will not do. The one blockading us, dumping Jordanian imports into the sea, and unloading Jordanian imports at Jeddah will not pay us a single cent. Delegations will come and go and the days and months will pass. The real aim is to bring our country to its knees, not to compensate it. The aim also is to see our army in Hafar al-Batin [in Saudi Arabia] confront and fight our brothers in Iraq. The aim also is to make the Jordanian stand please and serve U.S. imperialism.

Our country will not be brought to its knees while these great people are in it. A country led by King Husayn will not be brought to its knees.

We ask our government to call an immediate session of the Security Council. This is a war which the United States is waging against us, without any equivocation or scruples. If the Security Council is unable to protect the interests and destiny of our people, then there will be no need to honor its resolutions as long as we are blockaded, whether we declare our commitment to these resolutions or not.

Our people will know how to reply to U.S. terrorism. There is always something called the counterweapon [al-silah al-mushabih] which is other than fleets, planes, or dollars!

Heath Arrives, Notes Hostage Talks in Iraq

JN2010111190 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2000 GMT 19 Oct 90

[Text] Former British Prime Minister Edward Heath arrived in Amman this evening. Mr. Heath will confer with Jordanian officials and will then leave for Baghdad for talks with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn.

Mr. Heath said prior to his departure from London that the nature of his visit is humanitarian. Our reporter Rana Najm has more on Mr. Heath's tour. [Begin recording] [Heath] The arrangement is to meet President Saddam Husayn on Sunday, and I'm going to talk to him about the British who are still in Iraq who want to come home.

[Najm] And what do you hope to achieve from the visit?

[Heath] I hope to be able to achieve that they should come. I think Jordan is in an extraordinarily difficult

position, and has been from the beginning of the crisis, and we British have great understanding of King Husayn's position.

[Najm] Do you hope to have any talks with his majesty the king and any Jordanian officials while you're here?

[Heath] Yes, of course. Well, I'm here because I was approached first by the relatives, and they approached the foreign secretary at the same time. And I thought it was right to try to help them. [end recording]

King Confers With Heath

JN2010081090 Amman Domestic Service in English 0530 GMT 20 Oct 90

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received at al-Nadwah Palace last night former British Prime Minister Mr. Edward Heath. Talks between his majesty the king and Mr. Heath centered on various regional and international issues.

Mr. Heath arrived in Amman yesterday on a short visit to Jordan on his way to Baghdad for meeting with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn.

Omani Information Minister Begins Visit 20 Oct

Arrives, Message For King

JN2010164190 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 20 Oct 90

[Text] Omani Information Minister 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rawwas arrived in Amman today carrying a message to His Majesty King Husayn from His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman.

In a statement to reporters, the minister said that his visit to Jordan is to continue contacts and bolster fraternal relations between the two countries within the framework of common Arab interests. He expressed hope that a satisfactory solution to the Gulf crisis will be reached to preserve the rights of all sides and restore justice to its people, as well as returning Arab relations to their sound and correct course.

To receive him at the airport was Jordanian Information Minister Ibrahim 'Izz al-Din and the Omani ambassador in Amman.

King Receives Minister

JN2010164490 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 20 Oct

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received at the Hashemite Royal Court at noon today Oman's Information Minister 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rawwas, who conveyed a message from His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id on Arab and international efforts to promote a political solution to the Gulf crisis. The meeting was attended by the chief of the royal court and the Omani ambassador in Amman.

Departs 20 Oct

JN2110133890 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 20 Oct 90

[Text] Oman's Information Minister 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rawwas left Amman this evening. He was seen off at the airport by Information Minister Ibrahim 'Izz-al-Din and the Omani ambassador to Jordan.

U.S. Urges Saudi Check of Jordan-Bound Goods

JN2210115490 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 22 Oct 90 p 1, 12

[By Hani al-Duwayk in Amman]

[Text] Mr. Tawfiq Qa'war, doyen of the shipping agents in Jordan, has said that the Jeddah Port Administration's decision not to allow the shipment of Jordanian containers and goods to al-'Aqabah port except after a customs and security check came after instigation by the U.S. Administration with the aim of punishing Jordan—the government and the people—for its stands on the Gulf crisis.

Mr. Qa'war said one or more of the ships heading for al-'Aqabah port next week are expected to reload the containers, or some of them, which were earlier unloaded at Jeddah from commercial ships heading for al-'Aqabah, confirming either way the intentions of the Saudi customs' authorities and reports that the prevention is purely for customs issues and that it is not a political decision.

He went on to say that the obstacles placed by Jeddah port such as unjustified searches and the resultant delays in sailing schedules; the fact that whether or not the ship is allowed to enter the Tiran Straits and head for al-'Aqabah depends on the mood of the U.S. military vessel's captain and inspector; plus the hike in insurance premiums to 10 per thousand after the British insurance company Lloyds declared the Gulf of al-'Aqabah a war zone, have all made many shipowners reluctant to come to al-'Aqabah, in order to avoid war and the losses that could result from it. Therefore, al-'Aqabah port is paying the price of these obstacles in its importation and exportation of goods without Jordan's playing a role in the dispute in the Gulf region. In other words, we seem to be seeing with our own eyes numerous attempts to harm Jordan by foreign and Arab sides in any and every possible way.

The doyen of the shipping agents affirmed that these arbitrary and provocative measures against ships heading for al-'Aqabah port directly affect all other shipping lines that are still hesitant about resuming services to al-'Aqabah port. He indicated that all shipping agents are exerting their utmost to convince the shipping lines they represent to reinclude the al-'Aqabah port in their schedules.

After explaining the harassment of ships at Jeddah port, Qa'war said that the commander of a U.S. warship

located at the Tiran straits threatens the captains of ships he allows to continue their journey to al-'Aqabah that they will be subjected to the same harassment or more if they carry any cargo on their return journey.

He indicated that intensive contacts are being held by the government with the concerned quarters in Saudi Arabia and other parties involved with the aim of removing these obstacles and explaining the government's stand.

Minister Comments on Holding Ships in Jeddah

JN2110133590 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 21 Oct 90 Second Edition p 1

[By Ibtisam Agha]

[Text] Dr. Ibrahim Badran, secretary general of the Ministry of Industry and Trade, has asserted that incidents of intercepting ships loaded with Jordanian goods at Jeddah Port are individual cases and are not declared officially.

He added that the relationship between Jordan and Saudi Arabia is a strong, historical relationship which has social and pan-Arab dimensions. Therefore, he said, the crisis in the region should not affect this relationship and subject it to fluctuations.

He added that Jordan is still seeking to clear up the situation and return the smooth flow of Jordanian goods through Saudi Arabia, the way it was in the past.

He also affirmed that the present circumstances affecting the region are transient and will not change the nature of relations between Jordan and Saudi Arabia.

He noted the need for collective efforts to maintain the strong relations between the two countries, taking into account the distinguished historical experience of Jordanian-Saudi relations.

Shipment of Medicines for Iraq Turned Back

JN2110121390 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 21 Oct 90 p 3

[Special to the JORDAN TIMES by Sana' 'Atiyah]

[Text] Amman—The Jordanian Government Saturday turned back two commercial shipments carrying medicine destined for Iraq for the first time since economic sanctions were imposed on Baghdad after its takeover of Kuwait on Aug. 2.

According to a senior official at a Jordanian pharmaceutical manufacturing company, the badia [desert] police stopped the company's three trucks at the Jordanian-Iraqi border and ordered them to return to Amman.

"The police said they had orders not to allow any shipments going to Iraq and turned back the trucks," said the official, who did not want to be identified.

He said it was the first time a shipment carrying medicine was banned from leaving Jordan for Iraq after the United Nations imposed trade sanctions on Baghdad. "Medicine was supposed to be exempted from the embargo," he said.

Another similar shipment, from a different company, was also turned back, sources said. No official of the company was available for comment.

It was also the second time the Jordanian authorities had stopped shipments of goods that were understood to be exempted from the sanctions. Last week, the government had stopped charity shipment of food, milk and medicine destined for Iraq from the General Union of Voluntary Societies until an approval was granted from the Sanctions Committee of the Security Council.

Representatives from the two pharmaceutical manufacturers are expected to meet with U.N. representatives in Jordan Sunday to secure approval to send the medicine shipments to Iraq.

Jordanian pharmaceuticals continued to send shipments to Iraq, a major importer of Jordanian medicine, after the sanctions were imposed.

The company official said his company exported up to three shipments a week to Iraq, thirty tonnes each, after the sanctions were imposed. Iraq used to import 25 per cent of Jordanian pharmaceutical production, he said.

Saudi Arabia—upset with Jordanian public support for Iraq in the Gulf crisis—has stopped the imports of medicine from Jordan. But according to sources, negotiations with the Saudis were under way to resume the imports.

Saudi Arabia also imports about 25 per cent of Jordanian pharmaceutical products.

Representatives from the two companies whose shipments were turned back have complained to government officials about the ban. According to the company official, the firms were told that it was government policy to ensure that no shipments went to Iraq, in line with Jordan's compliance with the sanctions.

Jordan has come under heavy criticism for opposing the U.S.-led military intervention in the Gulf. It has also come under a close watchful eye after reports in the West alleged that the Kingdom was busting the sanctions despite the government's repeated statements that it did comply with U.N. Resolution 661, which imposed the sanctions.

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker said Thursday that the Bush administration believed that Jordan was honouring its pledge to honour the resolution.

A U.N. envoy, Jean Ripert, who visited Jordan earlier this month has also reported that the Kingdom was honouring the sanctions except for the purchase of oil from Iraq as settlement of Baghdad's debts to Amman.

Jordan has appealed for international aid to compensate for its losses incurred as a result of its compliance with the embargo on Iraq, Jordan's main trading partner.

Finance Minister Basil Jardanah has said that the Kingdom needs at least $1.5 billion by the end of this year to avoid an economic catastrophe. Only a trickle of the needed aid has come in from Japan and Germany.

Military Personnel Deportation From Gulf Noted

JN2110085590 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 21 Oct 90 Second Edition p 1

["Exclusive"]

[Text] An informed source has said that a large number of Jordanians who work in the Gulf countries were deported after the expiration of their contracts. The majority of them work in the military and security sector in these countries.

The source pointed out that about 1,500 military personnel who worked in the State of Qatar were deported. Other batches of Jordanian citizens working in Bahrain, who total approximately 7,000-8,000, are expected to return.

Information Minister Interviewed on Gulf Crisis

JN1910185590 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 19 Oct 90

[Report on interview with Information Minister Ibrahim 'Izz al-Din by Tunisian newspaper AL-SHURUQ—date, place of interview not given]

[Text] Information Minister Ibrahim 'Izz al-Din has said that Jordan's moves to find a political solution to the Gulf crisis stems from its full awareness that the military solution and long-term struggle will have destructive effects on the Arab world.

In an interview he gave to the Tunisian newspaper, AL-SHURUQ, published yesterday, the information minister added that from the first days, Jordan has sought to make the world face up to its responsibilities on this issue and to portray it as worthy of full attention with the goal of reaching a peaceful solution.

The information minister said there are many and varied signs from various parties pointing to the possibility of such a peaceful solution. He said that among these major signs are French President Mitterrand's initiative and Iraq's welcome of this initiative, as well as Soviet President Gorbachev's envoy's visit and the statements indicating the possibility of a peaceful solution. There are also many countries in the Arab east and west that are trying very hard to give concrete form to ideas and to coordinate amongst each other to reach a solution that satisfies the parties to the dispute in the Gulf crisis. In this way, they would be strengthening international efforts to find a solution to the Gulf crisis. The information minister added that Jordan will continue to try to avert confrontation.

The information minister discussed in his interview the losses that Jordan has sustained as a result of its adherence to the Security Council resolutions, and the economic pressures it has been subjected to, not to mention the burdens it has shouldered as a result of the flood of evacuees from Iraq and Kuwait.

Regarding his views on Arab action after the al-Aqsa al-Sharif massacre and the escalating oppression by Israel against the Palestinian people in the occupied territories, the information minister said he believes that the credibility of the five big powers, the Security Council, and international opinion as a whole, is now being tested. The Security Council took rapid action with great political will to issue swift resolutions on the Gulf crisis. The United States and the big powers are implementing these resolutions carefully and with determination.

The information minister went on to say that we now see another resolution, which has the same force and effectiveness. The world will watch until the end of this month to see how the United States and Britain will behave regarding this resolution.

Prince Hasan Views Gulf Crisis, Solutions

JN2010213590 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1832 GMT 20 Oct 90

[Interview with Crown Prince Hasan by unidentified Sudanese Television reporter in Amman "today"—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Reporter] As a matter of fact, it is not possible to dissociate Jordan from the Gulf crisis; it may even be at the heart of the problem. The crisis broke out in early August 1990, and in less than three months, events havemove the region to the brink of war.

[Hasan] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate: I first welcome you and the Sudanese people, who are held in high regard by all Jordanians, as a dear brother to Jordan. The crisis broke out on 2 August. Obviously, international law calls for withdrawal and ending the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait. We are at one with international legitimacy. This international legitimacy, so to speak, hides the fact that focusing on Iraq predated the Gulf developments by months—talk about the super gun and chemical weapons. The spotlight was on Iraq ever since the end of the war between Iraq and Iran. The key question in the mind of the Arab man on the street is: Is the international game meant to destroy Iraq or to get it out of Kuwait? As we all know, the principle of withdrawal was endorsed by Iraq on 12 August, and this was made clear in a straightforward official statement envisaging withdrawal in exchange for assurances of nonaggression and proviso that the unacceptable acquisition of territory by force be applied on

all regional issues, most importantly and historically, the Palestinian question. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] Are we to understand, Your Highness, that linking the Gulf crisis with the Palestinian question is paramount in Jordan's perception of the Gulf crisis?

[Hasan] Jordanians have lived with their brothers in Palestine under occupation. The Jordanian people have lived three years of the valiant intifadah on Palestinian territory. Jordan has seen 45,000 wounded and over 800 martyred. Every individual in this country has been affected, and it is this that sets us apart from many other Arab societies that have not been so closely affected by this tragedy. The question is: Why is there a double standard in application? What is the rush of putting together the largest multi-national army in the Gulf since the World War II, when the UN General Assembly and the Security Council agonized for days—not over condemning the killings Iraqi of our children in the al-Haram al-Sharif—but over a compromise, namely to send a fact-finding mission. We are not calling for simultaneous withdrawal from here and there. What we are calling for is a simultaneous application of principle. Over the past 23 years, have you ever heard Israel declare its readiness to pull out a single inch? This is what causes dismay and erodes our faith in so-called international justice and legitimacy.

[Reporter] Jordan is known to have been in the forefront of countries promoting a peaceful solution. Would you your highness sum up the progress made by Jordan on that road?

[Hasan] As you know, supported by some of his brother Arab leaders, his majesty travelled to Baghdad and secured an Iraqi commitment for withdrawal. Naturally, that was before foreign intervention and condemnation. It was evident that our Iraqi brothers were prepared to heed the Arab and Islamic call. Regrettably, through, the rest is now history. Resolutions of condemnation followed in quick succession, and the attempt to outflank the so-called Arab solution continued, until some charged that our promotion of an Arab solution was procrastination. Why should we procrastinate? We are trying to contain the conflict and thus help international legitimacy. Resolution 660 is very clear—it is the one underlying all the UN resolutions. It condemns occupation, demands withdrawal, and equally strongly states the need for direct talks between Iraq and Kuwait. It also points out the Arab League's role. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] How does his highness the prince view the prospects for Sudanese-Jordanian relations?

[Hasan] We have the same ethical standards in common. We are headed in the same direction. I think that we need to have more contacts in our bilateral relationship. Incidentally, I thank you for the important part you are playing. We are remiss in that regard—as Arabs and Muslims. We usually address ourselves to the outside world, which we criticize and whose games we resent, but we could do better than we are doing at present in our relations with kinfolk and brothers. I fervently hope we will be able to cement these relations through further contacts in all areas, God willing, step by step, through awareness and common faith.

[Reporter] Your Highness the prince, I thank you for your time.

French TV Interview

JN2110211090 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2000 GMT 21 Oct 90

[Text] His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan said that a chance to solve the Gulf crisis within an Arab framework has become difficult. In an interview with the French Television, the crown prince said an Arab solution was possible during the first 48 hours of the crisis. Prince Hasan said that Jordan is trying to secure the success of all diplomatic initiatives that aim at solving the crisis.

Speaker Returns From Baghdad, Algerians Arrive

JN2010184890 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 20 Oct 90

[Text] This evening, House Speaker Sulayman 'Arar and his parliamentary delegation returned to Amman after a four-day working visit to Baghdad, where they attended a meeting of the Arab Parliamentary Union called by the Iraqi Parliament. Also arriving on the same flight was an Algerian parliamentary team led by Mr. Abdelaziz Belkhadem, speaker of the People's National Assembly.

New Political Group Faces 'Zionist Challenge'

JN2110155990 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 21 Oct 90 pp 1, 14

[By Tawfiq 'Abid]

[Excerpts] It was declared yesterday evening that a third political organization called the Popular Political Group [al- tajammu' al-siyasi al-sha'bi] was born. The new group is made up of leaders of 15 political parties representing various ideological streams in Jordan.

A prominent member said the group's objective is to unify the struggle and jihad efforts of the various political, Islamic, national, and leftist forces, parties, movements, and organizations, as well as those of social and professional independent figures, around a political program and a working system based on opposition to the Zionist and imperialist onslaught and aggression on the Arab nation, supporting Iraq, defending Jordan, and supporting the blessed intifadah in the light of respect for democracy and political and ideological pluralism. [passage omitted]

He also said that the group is in harmony with the unified stand of the popular masses in Jordan in the face of the U.S.-led onslaught, occupation, buildup, and multinational imperialist threat against our Arab nation,

particularly fraternal Iraq. The group also seeks to confront the racist Zionist challenge and its war of annihilation launched against the Palestinian Arab people and their blessed intifadah. [passage omitted]

Paper Views 'Undeclared Embargo' on Jordan

JN2110100790 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 21 Oct 90 pp 1, 14

[Editorial: "They Are Punishing Jordan"]

[Text] Ever since Jordan announced its commitment to the pan-Arab position on the Gulf crisis it has been facing various attempts to weaken it, disrupt its economy, and starve its people, with the aim of diverting this country from its rational policy and pushing it into the alliance led by the United States against fraternal Iraq.

It is now clear that some neighborly Arab states have become involved in the undeclared embargo on Jordan, or rather, we can say, motivated by feelings of anger, revenge, and hatred, these states have gone beyond what is permissible among neighborly, so as not to say fraternal states.

All this has happened because Jordan, since the outbreak of the crisis, has announced its full adherence to the Arab solution and its strong rejection of imperialist alliances, not to mention its continuous endeavors to find a political option to the volatile situation in the region through intensive diplomatic efforts with several Arab and foreign capitals.

Hence, the brothers' anger and futile attempts to buy our position although they are fully aware that we are a nation who has never sold its honor of pan-Arab affiliation. They are also fully aware that this Arab bastion, which is stationed on the longest line of confrontation, is stronger than all attempts of blackmail and bribes. We, people and leadership, do not fear intimidations or temptations, and we do not have a tendency to submit.

What Jordan is being punished for, despite its commitment to the international resolutions and the grave losses its is suffering as acknowledged by the UN envoy, is, in essence, blind revenge for the rational policy we have called for in dealing with this serious crisis. Over time this policy gained many supporters on the Arab and international levels.

Therefore, we call on the Security Council in particular, which decided to help those countries harmed as a result of their commitment to the internatinal resolutions, to shoulder a greater responsibility toward Jordan's suffering and its increasing economic losses. We also call on this international body to raise its voice against the harassment and naval piracy being carried out by the fleets of the big countries against Jordanian trade with the outside world. Otherwise, we will be more convinced that the Security Council is nothing more than a toy in the hands of the United States and a tool used for world terrorism and blackmail.

Economic Boycott 'Meticulously' Implemented

JN2210082890 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 22 Oct 90 p 1, 12

[By Muhammad Amin]

[Excerpt] AL-DUSTUR has learned from informed industrial sources that transportation by trucks to Iraq has stopped completely since Wednesday when all trucks heading for Iraq were turned back irrespective of the Jordanian industrial products they were carrying.

The sources added that in this way Jordan would be meticulously implementing the economic boycott resolution imposed by the Security Council on Iraq. They recalled that during the past week the charity convoy consisting of a number of trucks carrying food, which was dispatched by the Charity Organizations' Union in Jordan to the children of Iraq, was not allowed to leave for Baghdad without the the convoy organizers first receiving approval from the United Nations.

The United Nations, through some of its observers in Jordan, had noticed that some Jordanian trucks carrying Jordanian products were crossing the Jordanian-Iraqi border outside the border posts. Therefore, all trucks heading for Iraq, irrespective of their origin, have been stopped.

By implementing this measure, Jordan is now fully applying the boycott. [passage omitted]

Editorial Notes Closer Relations With Iraq

JN2210092090 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 22 Oct 90 pp 1, 17

[Editorial: "We Will Not Kneel and We Have Winning Cards"]

[Text] The pressures being applied against our country can no longer be considered a mistake by this party or a misjudgment by that party. They now reflect a scheme aimed at this country's adherence to justice, refusal to sell its honor and pan-Arab affiliation, and its eagerness about a lofty future for its generations and the generations of its nation.

If the United States and all the colonialist forces and satellites imagine that these pressures will push our country, people, and leadership toward the trench opposing those of the Arab nation, they must be very deluded. Surely, the continuation of these pressures will create circumstances which will place the people and leadership of our country in the trench of the Arab nation in a manner that reverses all equations, undermines plots, and reshuffles all cards. The implementation against Jordan of the UN Security Council resolutions against fraternal Iraq in such an exposed manner is very serious and requires that all colonialist powers and their satellites reconsider the practice of dealing with Jordan as though it were the target of the UN Security

Council resolutions. This practice reflects a premeditated intention not only to starve our country's children, paralyze its economy, and undermine its democratic life, but also to push it into a tight corner. These attempts will not make us, as the enemies imagine, put our head alongside other heads under the U.S. boot and will not make us, as the enemies imagine, offer our proud Arab forces for rent. Nor will these attempts make us become part of the process of striking at the comprehensive pan-Arab awakening represented by fraternal Iraq.

Washington, London, and all powers conspiring and colluding against Iraq must realize before it is too late that this country, which has successfully exposed the dimensions of the conspiracy against our existence and pan-Arab future, still holds many cards and is quite capable of cutting the thread that holds the beads of the conspiracy together. When the knife gets close to its pan-Arab affiliation, its eagerness for its dignity, pride, and democratic life, this country will find it a precious opportunity to use its cards and deal a striking blow to those who believe that Jordan is alone in confronting the mounting pressures against it.

It is a message of warning to all enemies, to all those who imagine that the enemies make them stronger, and to all those who believe that the distance between Arab Amman and Arab Baghdad will be greater than the distance between two trenches, two loaves of bread, two bottles of milk, or two flags whose colors may differ, but which are made of the same thread, which is the proud blood that flows through the veins of the Iraqis and Jordanians.

Arabs Urged To Face Israel With 'Arab Shield'

JN2010102590 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 20 Oct 90 pp 1, 20

[Editorial: "It Is a Protective Shield for Israel"]

[Text] Prior to his meeting with Soviet envoy Primakov, President Bush announced that there will be no settlement of the Gulf crisis with Iraq. This pronouncement is an abortion of speculation with regard to the Soviet envoy's moves to defuse the crisis. The arrogant position to which the U.S. President now adheres is accompanied by a fresh escalation, in terms of beating the drums of war, and is being promoted by Henry Kissinger. The latter has cautioned against withdrawing U.S. forces from the Gulf before they achieve their objectives. He claimed that the withdrawal will expedite war with Israel and will allow radical Islamic figures the chance to control Egypt and Turkey!! The U.S. President's intransigent position and Israel's instruments, led by Kissinger in the U.S. arena, converge in escalating the call for war, despite the fact that Western military experts do not conceal their fear of the grave losses that will befall the Americans and the Atlantic forces if war breaks out.

No doubt, what Kissinger has said proves again that the U.S. presence in the Gulf primarily aims at building a protective shield for Israel, and that the al-Aqsa massacre was one of the first consequences of Israel's sense of reassurance as a result of this shield. Thus, the hysterical call to war led by Kissinger and his group indicates that the real aim behind the suspicious shield is to rapidly destroy the Arab forces that can confront Israel; namely, the Iraqi Army. Consequently, making Israel the dominant power in the region is the main U.S. concern and the focus of the U.S. refusal to defuse the Gulf crisis.

Needless to say, what is called the Desert Shield is a mechanism for the United States to spread responsibility among the world countries for spilling Arab blood in Iraq, so that Arabs will not one day be able to punish the criminal who shed this sacred blood. What consolidates this belief is the U.S. secretary of defense's claim that he is certain that Arab forces in the Gulf will join hands in striking Iraq when the Desert Shield forces launch such an attack!! This means that the United States wants to distribute the responsibility for spilling Iraqi blood among the Arabs, and not just among the Atlantic states!!

Of course, there is a great gap between the evil aspirations expressed by Cheney and the pan-Arab awareness enjoyed by the Arab soldier. No Arab doubts that the Arab soldier will disobey any order to open fire on a fraternal Iraqi soldier. Consequently, the Arab soldier will not join in shedding Iraqi blood and spreading the responsibility among other Arabs.

We call on the Arabs who are participating in Desert Shield to wash their hands of it, now that it is clear to everyone that it is a shield to protect Israel. The Arabs would do better to move toward building an Arab shield to confront Israel in compliance with the call of the Arab parliamentarians in Baghdad.

Dany Sham'un, Family Assassinated

NC2110075290 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0715 GMT 21 Oct 90

[Text] A regrettable incident, which is denounced, occurred this morning. Gunmen entered the home of Engineer Dany Sham'un [National Liberal Party leader] in Shahin Center in B'abda and opened fire on him, his wife, and their two sons. Dany Sham'un, his wife, and one of their two sons were martyred instantly. The other son was wounded and taken to the hospital.

Sham'un and his family live on the sixth floor in 'Abd-al-Nur building in Shahin Center in Ba'bda. We received this initial information without details.

The security cordon thrown around the home and the security measures that were quickly taken prevented us from receiving all the details. The public prosecutor, criminal investigation team, and a number of judges have gone to the scene of the crime.

The Voice of Lebanon strongly condemns this despicable crime and denounces all crimes and atrocities against any Lebanese, particularly senior figures, who have become national symbols. We believe that any animosity, no matter how bitter, must not turn into enmity whatever the motive.

President Denounces Killing

NC2110085490 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 21 Oct 90

[Text] We have just learned that as soon as he was notified in Damascus of the assassination of Dany Sham'un and his family members, President Ilyas al-Hirawi held urgent briefings with the military and security commands in Beirut on the details and ramifications of the crime. He expressed his deep regret and sorrow, and strong denunciation of these ugly criminal methods. He called on everyone to exercise self-restraint and not to be dragged into plans of physical liquidation intended to return tension to the country. He called on all leaders and forces to rise above wounds and to turn the page of the past with all its tragedies, because heroism now lies in forgiveness, tolerance, and refraining from vengeance and vindictive methods.

President al-Hirawi said: We have repeatedly stated that Lebanon cannot live on feud and rancor, but by cohesion of all its sons and their agreement on coexistence. He declared that this crime which shook us to the core will be discussed at the first cabinet meeting, because it is considered an act of aggression on the state's security, whatever party planned and implemented it. The perpetrators are subversives who do not want stability and peace for Lebanon.

Junblatt Comments on Murder

NC2110104190 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 21 Oct 90

[Text] Commenting on the ugly crime that claimed the lives of Dany Sham'un and his family, Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt said: The message is as clear as the sun. O, what a second republic! O what an accord! The al-Ta'if accord has begun with terrorism, with the liquidation of political opponents. It is a new Ihdin [reference to Ihdin massacre when former President Franjiyah's son and members of his family were killed]. This is the scheme thought up by intelligence, the intelligence of the malicious ambassador [to France Johnny 'Abduh], who is allied with Samir Ja'ja'.

Junblatt went on to say: Soon the press will be subjugated. And soon many of us will have the same fate and the second republic and the al-Ta'if accord will prosper at the expense of the blood of Dany Sha'un, his family members, and others.

Ja'ja' Issues Statement

NC2110105890 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 21 Oct 90

[Statement by Lebanese Forces Commander Dr. Samir Ja'ja' on 21 October—read by announcer]

[Text] I strongly denounce the crime of aggression on Dany Sham'un and his family, particularly since personal bonds and long-standing ties of friendship link us to the esteemed family. These ties go back to the time of the late former President Camille Sham'un, despite occasional certain political differences.

I consider this to be a crime against national accord and therefore we will lie in wait for the enemies of accord and those who fish in troubled water. We would like to emphasize that the process of accord will proceed despite all criminal and subversive methods both from within or without, methods which led to the martyrdom of Dany Sham'un today. It is my conviction that this crime would not have occurred had it not been for the anomalous security conditions that prevail in the two al-Matn regions. Therefore, I exhort the legitimate authority—this time with more urgency and insistance—to extend its absolute power over the two al-Matn regions to ensure security and reassurance for all citiznes. We also call on the legitimate authority to carry out a meticulous, speedy, and serious investigation to reveal the facts about this crime and punish the criminals.

I offer my heartfelt condolences to the family and to the National Liberal Party to whom I am bound by special ties of amity and respect.

AFP Reports Gunmen Wore Army Uniforms

NC2110093690 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0900 GMT 21 Oct 90

[Text] Engineer Dany Sham'un and his family members were murdered at their home in Shahin Center in B'abda this morning. According to reports, gunmen entered Eng. Sham'un's home and opened fire on him, his wife, and two sons. Dany Sham'un, his wife, and his son Tariq were killed instantly. His son Jerome was wounded and taken to the hospital, but his seven-month daughter escaped unhurt.

Citing eyewitnesses, AFP reported that some 15 gunmen wearing Lebanese army military uniforms surrounded Sham'un's home at about 0630. A number of the gunmen climbed the stairs and knocked on the door. As soon as Sham'un opened the door, the gunmen opened fire, killing him instantly.

Army Issues Denial

NC2110123590 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 21 Oct 90

[Text] The Information Department of the Defense Ministry's operations room has issued a statement saying: AFP carried a report this morning about the way Dany Sham'un and his family were assassinated and gave unconfirmed details involving the Lebanese Army's name in a hurtful and suspicious manner by the propagators of the information.

The army command declares that investigation has not confirmed these reports and believes that involving the army in this way is an attempt to damage its role. It calls on the media not to draw conclusions prematurely about the investigation and, for the sake of truth and to avoid cheap exploitation, not to use the information.

French Radio Alleges 'Awn Supporters 'Massacred'

LD2010100990 Paris Domestic Service in French 0900 GMT 20 Oct 90

[Excerpts] The family of General 'Awn has set foot in France. [passage omitted]

A week after the surrender of Gen 'Awn, the controversy over the execution of his supporters by the Syrian Army is continuing. France has in fact taken the issue to UN Secretary General Cuellar to shed light on these killings. At least 100 of Michel 'Awn's supporters have been tortured and massacred. Alain Menargues investigated in Lebanon for France Inter:

[Menargues] Summary executions were carried out after the entry of Syrian troops in al-Matn. I vouch for the fact that soldiers from the company led by (Albert Tanus) of the 10th brigade were tortured by a unit of the 48th regiment of the Syrian special forces led by General Hashim al-Mu'alla who led the attack against (Dar al-Wahsh). On 10 October, I saw 25 bodies in the mortuary of the government hospital of Baabda. Six were in white plastic bags. Five died from strangulation and bore no other wound except a cross shape cut on the chest. The others were killed with a bullet in the ear, the neck, or the mouth. Two bodies still had the hands tied behind the back. The mother superior of the hospital, who has been a nurse for 15 years, confirmed to me the existence of marks of torture on 76 bodies out of the 100 admitted to the mortuary. All bodies were stripped of their identity badges, watches, and rings. I saw many eye witnesses or victimes of robbery, rape, and massacre of 15 civilians in the village of (Ksous). At the mortuary of the military hospital of Badaro I saw the bodies of 27 soldiers including that of (Commander Georges Zogloc) of the fifth brigade who was tortured and killed at the Siemens Gallerie by Syrian soldiers of the 56th regiment of the special forces led by Gen 'Ali Dib. In all and after six days of investigation, I attest that at least 120 Lebanese soldiers have been tortured and summarily killed after they surrendered and that at least 15 civilians have been massacred. Beirut, Alain Menarges, France Inter. Lebanese President Elias Hrawi refuses to answer accusations about these massacres. After any military intervention, he said, of course there are victims.

Mansur Alleges 'Awn Behind 'Double Massacre'

NC1910175390 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 19 Oct 90

[Text] Defense Minister Albert Mansur has denied reports of a massacre of pro-'Awn soldiers. He said that there was a double massacre, the first of which claimed the lives of 200 Syrian soldiers.

Mansur accused General 'Awn of being behind these incidents because he gave his forces a counter-order to resume the fighting after he had surrendered. Mansur told the French daily LE MONDE: In Dahr al-Wahsh, the Syrian forces believed the cease-fire order given by 'Awn, but the units loyal to him received the counter-order. This caused a double massacre. The Syrians were the victims of the first massacre. Mansur added: The Syrian forces lost 200 men all of a sudden and when the remaining half of the unit arrived at the Lebanese positions, the second massacre took place. He stressed that all this happened during the battles.

President Discusses Nation's Future

JN1910205990 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1850 GMT 19 Oct 90

[Interview with Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi by an unidentified correspondent in Beirut within the "Spotlight on Events" program—date not given]

[Text] [Correspondent] Your Excellency the President, what was achieved this week is undoubtedly great and important. How do you assess this step?

[Al-Hirawi] I welcome fraternal Syria's television, and I hope I will be able not only to answer the questions posed to me, but also to show how much I am thankful in

the name of the presidency, the government, and the Lebanese people to fraternal Syria for its assistance to the Lebanese Army in taking that recent step. Regarding my assessment, it is divided into two parts. The first part is that I hoped, as president of the State of Lebanon, and in the name of the Lebanese people, that this operation could be carried out peacefully. We have sought this over the past 10 months by every means and on the international, Arab, and Lebanese levels. But all this failed due to the intransigence and rebellion based on selfishness, and the separation of a dear part from Lebanon to enable that rebellion to continue. Many slogans were used by the rebel commander for the past two years. He also used to call for Lebanon's liberation, the unification of the rifle, and proposals that misled the Lebanese people into believing that what was happening in any part of the world was in their interest. In fact, this is what I wished. I wanted the merger of a dear part of the mother homeland through the olive branch and a rose, and not through a surgical military operation. Since I signed the reforms, which I announced loudly, the second republic has begun. At the same time, I expressed in emotional, but strong words, that I did not want to make the difficult decision. I said I did not want to because I wanted to avoid the disaster that I had predicted.

I have no appetite for blood, nor am I an oppressor. I am not one to deny others their livelihood, either. When I assumed office, I swore by the Constitution to the unity of Lebanon, to the reassertion of state authority throughout the land, and to the state's resumption of control over its utilities and institutions. I equally pledged to make sure that no single quarter should be allowed to force itself on the Lebanese people—militias or others. Hence, with my patience exhausted, action had to be taken. It was not possible for me to make and carry out the decision on my own. Hence, help was sought from sisterly Syria, represented by His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, who over the past fifteen years, has let no occasion pass without discussing Lebanon, which he has wanted united rather than divided—a truly independent country. He has said often enough that we are one people in two independent states. He made this point in his famous news conference on my first visit to Syria. My confidence in the good intentions toward the cause of Lebanon's unity both by President al-Asad and the Syrian Arab Army prompted me to make my request, after the Council of Ministers had made the decision. I was in no doubt that the Syrian leadership, represented by his excellency the president, would help Lebanon rid itself of this insurgency and reassert state authority throughout the land. I made the request and the answer I received was unambiguously affirmative.

[Correspondent] Your Excellency the President: Observers of the Lebanese scene must come to the realization that the legitimate government is determined to see the national reconciliation document enforced so as to satisfy all Lebanese. What will the next step be?

[Al-Hirawi] The first step was our undertaking enshrined in the initiative made by the Cabinet on 11 July. Neither I nor the Government, nor for that matter, any Lebanese in office, is responsible for the bloodbath. This is the responsibility of the initiators of bloodbaths. We sent a message to the Lebanese people and the militias that have come into being over this long period of time, that the legitimate government can embrace all of them. Our argument was: Let us engage in political dialogue and let them be with us in this political dialogue, namely in a government to be called a government of national accord; let us make decisions together in Lebanon's interest. The expected measure, due very shortly, is a new government, which will be represented by all the parties that have been receptive to the Government initiative of 11 July. The measure envisages the formulation of a full scale security plan, calling for, among other things, the dissolution of the militias, peacefully if they so wish, and failing that, by other means. In such situations, we have been known to be decisive. Subsequently, we will reassert state authority throughout Lebanon. There is a lot to be said for the national accord document, but the government and people want the citizens to live in peace and security. Furthermore, I am jealous of the freedom Lebanon enjoys. Whoever wants to be in opposition, so be it, but peacefully. Henceforth, though, I must warn that there is no place for opposition through the barrel of the gun. There is no place for opposition to state security. The political opposition belongs on the floor of the House of Deputies, in a free press, and in social fora. Negative opposition is definitely out of the question. Now that the Army has been assembled in a national gathering, and sectarian and party-affiliated militias will become a thing of the past, our coming initiative will address our dear south [Lebanon]. Already the UN Security Council has passed Resolution 425, which we want to see enforced.

We are capable of sending the Army units required by this resolution, not to declare war, but to extend the state authority so that no one can complain from now on, by saying that there are militias and other elements in our south. I do not want to give names. As for the national resistance, which has given an example to be emulated by all resistance movements, we extend our thanks to it and highly appreciate what it has done. But, it is high time for the state to assume its role, which should not be taken over by any militias or any resistance movement. We want to regain control over our dear south so that it can become a dear part of all Lebanon. Thus, we will have fulfilled the aspirations of all Lebanese as well as the aspirations of the Lebanese state. All this has been made possible with the assistance extended by the Arab brothers who contributed along with us toward the formulation of the peace agreement. I must note that the primary role in this regard was played by fraternal Syria. We were created by God to be neighbors, geographically speaking. Besides, we speak the same language. Our families are linked to one another. As for our people, they are committed to their brothers and comradely people in fraternal Syria. We are about to establish foundations of ties to produce strong and special relations in all spheres—be they security or economic ties—

so that no pitfalls remain in the Lebanese-Syrian future that can change these basic foundations, which we seek to consecrate strongly, either any change in government or minister from here or there. We want to establish a sound policy, and then everybody will have to do what he has to do in the future. This is what I aspire to achieve.

[Correspondent] Your Excellency the president: What took place on the morning of 13 October 1990 caused general satisfaction among official and popular Lebanese quarters. However, the Lebanese citizen who saw that the near future would be the future of a unified, free, and independent Lebanon examined his economic situation and raised questions on the positive repercussions of this move. How do you view this?

[Al-Hirawi] He who has a need wants to see his need met before anything else. They want the Lebanese state to meet all of their demands in a short time. If we were given 24 hours to meet their demands, they would be generous and tolerant toward us. The calamity that has plagued Lebanon over the past 16 years [sentence incomplete as heard]. Yes, we are among those who believe that the Lebanese people are active and forceful. We also believe that they will awaken from this setback that has exhausted them over the past 7 years. One of the simple examples that I cite in this regard is the following: What was the exchange rate of the dollar before 13 October? What is the current exchange rate of the dollar? This is evidence showing an improvement, and this exchange rate has begun to decline. This also shows that the Lebanese pound has restored some of its previous bright record. Yes, there is devastation and destruction, not caused by what happened on 13 October, but by what has happened over the years, and especially by what happened over the past two years in which the rebellious general ruled despotically. There are numerous demands regarding electricity and water requirements. Similarly, there are social, health, and educational demands. In addition, there are demands regarding roads and the rehabilitation of institutions. Yes, what we accomplished with the help of the fraternal Syrian Army on 13 October put an end to a part of the Lebanese tragedy. However, our future activity will seek to end all aspects of this tragedy. Hence, our future economic, social, educational, and health plans will be the major preoccupation of the Lebanese state. The aim is to restore to this people their peace of mind and to give them more hope in their homeland, Lebanon. When all this is accomplished, we will urge all emigrants to return to their Lebanon. As for those who were forced to leave their homes, we will work to return them to their areas.

[Correspondent] Your Excellency the president: There is information circulating here in political and diplomatic quarters about an expected summit meeting with President Hafiz al-Asad. As a matter of fact, those who recall previous summits attach great importance to the positive results that usually come out of such summits. Your Excellency the president, would you throw some light on this anticipated summit?

[Al-Hirawi] First of all, I hope from the bottom of my heart that there will would be many meetings between myself and President al-Asad, for numerous reasons. First, he is the wisest of the Arabs, and when I meet with him, I learn a great deal, especially about international policy and decisionmaking. I also learn about national trends and regional and Arab policy. No one should think that, whenever I meet with him, we only discuss our Lebanese issues. We talk about many issues that even depart from the domain of the Arab region. My expected meeting, which I think will be soon, would be first to extend my thanks for what fraternal Syria has done: the support of the Lebanese Army by the Syrian Arab Army; and after that, to discuss everything contained in the al-Ta'if accord, in terms of its clauses and future for Lebanon. I think, up to this moment, we have achieved the greater part. We still have other parts of this agreement, though the Lebanese—or some of them—have said that it has not satisfied the hopes of the rising generations in Lebanon. My answer was: These generations and their hopes have the right to say that they have not achieved their goal. However, in a country like Lebanon, which suffered a great deal for more than 15 years, it is mandatory that the way of peace be established for the Lebanese. I trust God that, when the security situation is stable, there will be a call for elections, so that these rising youths will have their role in the future. They have to decide which constitution and regime they want for Lebanon. Our present regime or constitution, which was finalized recently are neither a Koran nor a Bible. Constitutions develop in accordance with the ambitions of the people and the requirements of the people and the age. If I were asked whether these constitutional amendments reflect my ambitions, my answer would be no. However, after 24 days and nights in al-Ta'if, this document was the only thing we had. We have to accept it so as to start on the road of peace and put Lebanon on the path to safety.

[Correspondent] Your Excellency the president: We have noticed that there are certain forces—which are of course limited—seeking to tarnish the reputation of the two fraternal armies, the Lebanese and Syrian Armies, through accussations of theft, violations, or similar charges. Of course, there might be some impulsive results, but this could be placed within a reasonable context of what usually takes place in battle. Do you have any word to address to our kinfolk in the area that used to be called the eastern area, to explain the truth?

[Al-Hirawi] Thank you for saying the area that used to be called the eastern area. From now on, we should say Lebanon and Beirut, and not an eastern or western area. As for those who want to besmirch what happened on Saturday morning, it is certain that they have tendentious objectives. Had they really cherished any love for Lebanon, they would have helped us to end this case peacefully and not by military means. But their attempts have been going on for a long time, whether by arming the eastern area or through the funds they sent, which were spent in that area to tarnish Lebanon's reputation.

They have instigated fighting that was called in the past an act of liberation. Later, they also instigated fighting that was called fighting for uniting the rifle. With whose money? With whose funds? With their funds, though I do not want [words indistinct]. May God keep their evil away from Lebanon and from us.

We have served the Arab issues, and we have paid the highest Arab price for the Palestine question. Lebanon was destroyed for the sake of the Palestine question. Where were they when Lebanon was being destroyed? Why did they not assist us in development or reconstruction so that we might thank them publicly and announce that these amounts of money came from that country? Did they supply weapons and explosives to destroy Lebanon? They have evicted the Lebanese to places all over the world. Is this Arab dignity? Was it not enough for them to discuss pan-Arab security at their meetings as if Lebanon were not a part of it? They supplied a sector of Lebanon with money and weapons. Was that in the pan-Arab interest? Did they not know that part of this region dealt with Israel? Is that in the interest of Lebanon. It was enough. We will no longer be silent. We will reveal the facts courageously.

Regarding what happened on 13 October, I would like to remind people that whoever wants to achieve his ideal goal by relieving Lebanon of this tragedy will not be bothered by the dust of the battle. What happened in the United States after the Vietnamese war? What happened in Germany? Did not the foreign forces leave behind them 360,000 children, half of them black because of burns? Do they not know what happened all over the world? They see nothing except what happened in East Beirut for a short time, when the leadership used its iron fist to put an end to these excesses. After all these tragedies, how can we ask about a stolen car or a table stolen from an office? This is a shame. We should not treat those who came to help us in this manner. The Syrian blood shed over Lebanese territory should have been the blood of the Lebanese Army. However, we thank the Syrian Army for every drop of its blood shed on Lebanese territory. We thank it and we will not respond to these accusations. Pan-Arab security should have prompted them to assist us instead of creating the problem. The weapons and ammunition used on 13 October were the ammunition and equipment they had sent to Lebanon. We hoped they would sent troops to resist Israel.

[Correspondent] Your Excellency the president, let me express my deep thanks to you for answering our questions.

[Al-Hirawi] You are welcome, and I thank Syrian Television, which has allowed me to express part of my appreciation for what fraternal Syria did along with the Lebanese Army. In the name of the government, the Chamber of Deputies, which has recently authorized me, and the Lebanese people, I extend greetings and thanks to brother President Hafiz al-Asad, his honorable leadership, and the fraternal Syrian Army for its recent action in Lebanon.

[Correspondent] Thank you very much.

Junblatt Questions Call To Hand Over Weapons

NC2010210190 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 20 Oct 90

[Speech by Progressive Socialist Party, PSP, leader Walid Junblatt at a meeting with the Popular Liberation Army, PLA, personnel and PSP members; place and date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] Comrades and heroes of the Suq al-Gharb battle, try as they may to steal the victories of the PLA or the PSP or other Lebanese national forces, the fact remains that we triumphed in Bhamdun, in 'Aytat, in Beirut, in Iqlim al-Kharrub, in the mountain, and in Suq al-Gharb. [cheers] Today we are asked by various people, in one way or another, to hand over our weapons. To whom shall we hand over our guns? Shall we hand over our guns to [Lebanese Forces Commander] Samir Ja'ja'? Shall we hand over our guns to Ilyas al-Hirawi and [Army Commander] Emile Lahhud? Shall we give our guns to those who until very recently have been trying to drive the nationalists and the Druze out of the mountain? We will only hand over our weapons and disband the PLA when we receive guarantees that the future army, if there will be such an army, will be an Arab Lebanese army belonging to all. We will only hand over our weapons when the PLA units, battalions, and brigades become part of the Lebanese Army and security forces. [cheers] We will only hand over our weapons when we feel that our lives, our dignity, and our families in the mountain, in Iqlim al- Kharrub, in Beirut, in the South, and elsewhere are safe.

We are not trying to belittle the importance of the recent battle in Suq al-Gharb. We have rid ourselves of a major nightmare, Michel 'Awn. But, what next? Will Walid Junblatt, as al-Hirawi and the like claim, be treated as a militia leader, as equal to Samir Ja'ja'? Will the Druze community, the nationalist community, and their allies be treated as militias, as gangsters, and as murderers indistinguishable from those murderers who work for Samir Ja'ja' and the like? Is this how Walid Junblatt, the Ma'ruf clan, the nationalists in Iqlim al-Kharrub and Beirut, the Amal Movement, and Hizballah are to be rewarded so that Samir Ja'ja' can have a seat in the cabinet?

If this is what some people in Syria want, we have something to tell them. Specifically, we tell President Hafiz al-Asad himself [cheers and applause] that we are ready, Mr. President, and you are a man of your word. I met you in 1983 and told you then that we will stay on your side through the good and the bad times. President al-Asad answered me: We are also on your side. We are on the side of the Ma'ruf clan, of the nationalists and the pan-Arabists. If President al-Asad wants us to hand over our weapons, we are not going to hand over our guns to anyone except the Syrian Arab Army. If President al-Asad wants us to disband the PLA, we may do just that

on the condition that the PLA personnel, officers as well as soldiers, be enrolled in the Lebanese Army and the internal security forces. If President al-Asad wants a just solution in Lebanon, we tell him: We are for a just solution in Lebanon, we are for al-Ta'if despite all our reservations, we are for peace, we are not warmongers, but we do not accept, and I do not think you accept, that the nationalists be insulted in Lebanon, that the Ma'ruf clan be insulted in Lebanon, or that Walid Junblatt be insulted in Lebanon, by Ja'ja'. [cheers] [passage omitted]

We have made so many sacrifices for Syria and we are ready to make even more sacrifices for Syria. I have sacrificed the dearest thing I had in this life for Syria. [cheers] It is for the sake of these sacrifices, for the nationalist interest, for [Walid's father] Kamal Junblatt and his PLA comrades [cheers] that we have to ask for guarantees for our existence, our guns, and our future. [passage omitted]

This is a moment of truth, a moment to distinguish between friends and foes. We do not blame our enemies. We know our enemies. We blame some friends who, in such a moment of truth, forget or pretend to forget the sacrifices that the PLA, this great Arab army, has made in Suq al-Gharb, Beirut, 'Aytat, Iqlim al- Kharrub, and Bhamdun. [passage omitted]

Christian Militia Vows To Remain in Beirut

NC2010183790 Paris AFP in English 1614 GMT 20 Oct 90

[Text] Beirut, Oct 20 (AFP)—The Lebanese Forces (LF) Christian militia vowed on Saturday to remain in Beirut until a new government is formed and the Lebanese regular army has taken control of territory once under General Michel 'Awn.

LF Information Director Georges 'Abd-al-Masih said the militia would not leave its stronghold in al-Asharfiyah in Christian Beirut, until it "reaches a clear accord with members of a national unity government, which must be formed."

President Ilyas al-Hirawi has said establishing such a government and drafting a national security plan are the priorities facing Lebanon following the ouster of Gen. 'Awn, the rebel Christian leader who had controlled the al-Matn region north and east of here.

The general was dislodged from his headquarters southeast of here in an attack October 13 by Syrian and Lebanese regular forces.

His surrender sparked hopes that factional fighting in Lebanon could now be contained and militia forces brought under state control.

The LF under Samir Ja'ja' fought a bloody battle with 'Awn loyalists from January to May this year.

But analysts here, following the removal of Gen. 'Awn, had been waiting for reaction of the Lebanese Forces to the government's determination to assert its authority over all of Lebanon.

Al-Hirawi Arrives, Begins Talks With Al-Asad

JN2010103490 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1015 GMT 20 Oct 90

[Excerpts] At 1030 today Ilyas al-Hirawi, president of the Republic of Lebanon, arrived in Damascus on a visit to the Syrian Arab Republic. President Hafiz al-Asad led those who received him at the Damascus western entrance. [passage omitted]

The two presidents then headed in an official motorcade to Tishrin Palace, where the the guest president will stay.

At Tishrin Palace, Presidents al-Asad and al-Hirawi held a meeting that was attended on the Syrian Arab side by Vice Presidents 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and Dr. Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'. On the Lebanese side, the talks were attended by Faris Buwayz, the Lebanese president's adviser.

President Ilyas al-Hirawi was received at the Lebanese-Syrian border by Wahib Fadil, minister of state for presidential affairs, and 'Ali Zayyud, governor of the Province of Damascus Rural Area.

Al-Asad, Al-Hirawi Hold News Conference

JN2110194090 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1840 GMT 21 Oct 90

[Text] Damascus, 21 Oct (SANA)—On the conclusion of Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi's visit to Damascus this evening, President Hafiz al-Asad and Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi talked to Syrian and Lebanese media representatives.

The first question was addressed to President Ilyas al-Hirawi on his assessment of the visit and talks with President Hafiz al-Asad. He answered by saying: My visit to Syria and His Excellency President al-Asad came to express thanks and appreciation for his response to the request made by the Lebanese Government. I also came to thank the Syrian Arab Army, which supported the Lebanese Armed Forces in suppressing the mutiny that had been going on for a long time in an area dear to my heart in Lebanon. Now that security has prevailed, we hope this march will continue. We discussed what would happen after the end of the mutiny. We fully agree on the al-Ta'if national reconciliation document, and I hope that we, with the support of fraternal Syria under Brother President Hafiz al- Asad, will achieve the security, stability, freedom, and independence which we desire for Lebanon as soon as possible.

The second question was addressed to President Hafiz al-Asad. The question was: Despite the major achievement scored recently in Lebanon with the help of fraternal Syria, the schemes of sedition have begun to surface once more. The murder of the late Dany Sham'un and his family has aroused fears that the situation in Lebanon may be shaken. In your excellency's view, how can the march—which you sponsor in Lebanon—be protected and continue toward the final and comprehensive peace in Lebanon?

The president answered by saying: First, I wish to repeat my welcome of brother President Ilyas al-Hirawi and my congratulations to him and the Lebanese Government, as well as to all Lebanese leaders and people, for the achievement which was scored in Lebanon for the benefit of the Lebanese people. This achievement came as a result of the decision led by President Ilyas al-Hirawi, in which the other leaders have taken part and which was based on the interest of the Lebanese people and homeland. Naturally, when we say it was based on the interest of the Lebanese people and homeland, we also understand that at the same time, it was founded on achieving Syrian and general Arab interests.

Naturally, we in Syria are never pleased with the emergence of those events which you referred to in your question, particularly at this time when people are talking about an achievement and about reaching a safe phase. We must all endeavor to support and entrench this achievement so that this major step can help remove the other remaining small obstacles on the Lebanese arena.

We hope that all brothers and parties in Lebanon will refrain from committing murders like the event we heard about today from the radio stations. We have confidence in the awareness of the Lebanese leaders and masses and in their ability to avert and confront such attempts, because they are not in the interest of Lebanon.

The following question was put to his excellency the president:

Being equidistant from all the Lebanese forces and figures that have joined the reconciliation effort, will you support the legitimate Lebanese Government in its pursuit of an a comprehensive national reconciliation to lay the foundations for a firm political solution in the country?

His excellency the president said:

We will certainly work hand in hand with the legitimate Lebanese government—something I have made plain during our frequent meetings and reiterated during a news conference held by myself and President Ilyas al-Hirawi earlier on here. We have proved to be right in what we said at our earlier meeting. We will continue to say the same thing in the future. This is since we are determined to see the reconciliation process pursued with vigor. We are confident that all the Lebanese sides active on the scene will be similarly motivated. They will cooperate with me and my brother President Ilyas al-Hirawi, and all the leaders that I had in mind. I think, on the strength of the information reaching me, the situation is different now. As we know, everyone throughout the country wants true reconciliation. If some people have some reservations here and there, this is legitimate. All of us in Syria and Lebanon will work to advance what we consider to be in our common interests. Naturally,

Lebanon's interests will take precedence. I think that the more arduous leg of the journey has been covered. We fervently hope that we will travel the remaining distance hand in hand and shoulder to shoulder.

A journalist suggested to his excellency the president that the Israeli occupation [of southern Lebanon] will remain a barrier to a strong state authority, and asked how Israel can be made to pull out of southern Lebanon and the Western al-Biqa' as called for by UN Security Council Resolution 425.

His excellency the president replied:

As I see it, all of us in Syria and Lebanon are agreed that the weapon that counts most is national unity. It is the potent weapon that should make a realization of Lebanon's dreams throughout the land—not to mention the south—possible. We will cooperate on the question of the south, and as a united front will able to liberate and recover southern Lebanon.

The last question was:

If His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad would oblige us by answering one last question about Iqlim al-Tuffah—the bleeding wound in the country's side. Has your meeting with the leaders of Iran produced a solution to this problem?

His excellency the president replied:

As a matter of fact, Iran has a positive stand. Whatever differences there are between us on this point are negligible. In any case, this is an internal Lebanese affair. All of us must do all we can to help sort out this problem. Anyhow, as you know, we and the Lebanese Government led by President Ilyas al-Hirawi are in constant touch through various channels. The question of Iqlim al-Tuffah has come up more than once. But apparently first things come first, and this is natural. We do not know what the Lebanese government may decide on tomorrow or the day after, or in the coming days. The Lebanese Government is quite capable of addressing the question and finding the right answer.

Finally, the president was asked if he had a word for the Lebanese people:

The president said:

In short, I send them my love and greetings, and wish them peace on behalf of myself and the Syrian leadership and people.

Papers Affirm Support For Lebanon After 'Awn

JN2210075290 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 22 Oct 90

[From the press review]

[Text] Both TISHRIN and BA'TH newspapers have commented on the Lebanese situation after the fall of the rebellion, and after the beginning of the national unity march and work toward spreading the legitimate government's authority over all Lebanese soil. The papers affirmed that Syria will support the legitimate government, work with it, and support it arm in arm, so long as it serves Lebanon—people and unity—and the pan-Arab interest, because whatever serves the people of Lebanon also automatically and naturally serves Syria.

Under the headline "The Most Important Weapon", the newspaper TISHRIN says: Undoubtedly, what has been reached through exchange of opinion, dialogue, and viewpoints between the two presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Ilyas al-Hirawi, will reflect positively and clearly on the national reconciliation march, the stage after toppling 'Awn, and ending the rebellion. It will tangibly strengthen the role of the legitimate government to spread its authority over all parts of Lebanon with the goal of achieving unity and activating the institutions of the legitimate government to restore the public institutions and ports, disband the militias, guarantee the unity of the army, and train it to defend the homeland and liberate the south from the Zionist occupiers.

TISHRIN goes on to say: These noble goals, which the Lebanese people are eager to realize and translate into reality, will receive constant support, backing, and help to remove Lebanon from its crisis. They will also receive great response from the Lebanese legitimate government to secure peace and safety and retrieve peace of mind to a united Lebanon—land, people, and organizations.

President Hafiz al-Asad affirmed to President Ilyas al-Hirawi that Syria will not hesitate in the future to provide all possible and required support to help Lebanon in its march to realize national reconciliation and restore its well-being.

TISHRIN concludes by citing President Hafiz al-Asad's affirmation at the conclusion of the Syrian-Lebanese summit that we insist that the reconciliation march proceed strongly and with pride, and we are very confident that all the active Lebanese parties in the arena will join us in this march.

On the same topic and under the headline "The March of Reconciliation Proceeds Firmly", the newspaper AL-BA'TH affirms that the long-term suffering of Lebanon gives it all the right in the world to restore its security, stability, freedom, and independence since the homeland is the one that will remain. When the legitimate government toppled the rebellion, it toppled all attempts at division and fragmentation. It called for rising above grudges and hatred and opened the door wide for all its sons to contribute toward building the homeland.

Afghanistan

Clashes Continue Among Army, 'Extremist' Factions

Four Leaders Killed

LD1810230690 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 18 Oct 90

[Text] The units and companies of Kabul Garrison today inflicted crushing blows on the positions and assembly points of the extremists in the south and the northwest. They also carried out mopping up operations around Kabul. As a result of these attacks a number of the extremists including Joma Gol, Ahmad Jan, Aktar, and Shakor, four ringleaders of the extremist groups of Gulbuddin, Sayyaf-e Wahhabi, and Mawlawi Yunis were killed and a number of them received injuries.

Also as a result of mopping up operations in the south one DaSHks and 127 cases of shells, 33 cases of heavy machinegun shells, 97 rocket shells and mortars, a clothing depot, and 17 antipersonnel mines were seized. Two [word indistinct] and 11 guns belonging to the extremists were destroyed.

Combat in Zabol Province

LD1810230890 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 18 Oct 90

[Text] The units and companies of the armed forces stationed in Zabol Province today inflicted heavy losses of life on the enemies of the homeland and people and destroyed dozens of their heavy and light weapons and a large quantity of ammunition. The BIA military section reports that as a result of artillery fire by the armed forces, 31 extremists, including their two ringleaders, were crushed and 45 others were injured. Also, a combat machine [as heard], three reactive systems [rockets], a gun, a mortar, a ZK-1, three Dashks, an ammunition depot, two vehicles carrying arms and ammunition, dozens of heavy weapons, and hundreds of rounds of ammunition for heavy weapons belonging to the extremists were destroyed as a result of blows inflicted by the armed forces' units and companies. The units and companies stationed in Zabol Province successfully carry out their national and patriotic duties with high combat morale and a high feeling of patriotism.

Gulbuddin Weapons Destroyed

LD1910194490 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 19 Oct 90

[Text] Six vehicles carrying weapons and ammunition for Gulbuddin extremist groups were eliminated along the road in Khugiani District, Nangarhar Province by mines planted by the rival groups. The military section of the Bakhtar Information Agency reports that as a result of mine explosion, 24 guards of these vehicles were also killed and a number were injured.

Gulbuddin, Rabbani Groups Clash

LD1910202890 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 19 Oct 90

[Excerpt] As a result of internal differences between the extremist groups of Gulbuddin and Rabbani, fierce clashes recently flared up in the Takhar, Badakhshan, Kapisa, and Konduz provinces.

According to a BIA military section report the clashes resulted in 19 men from both sides being killed and a number injured. Three hundred assorted weapons belonging to the Gulbuddin group were taken in Kapisa Province by the Rabbani group. [passage omitted]

Fighting Between 'Extremist Groups'

LD2110162590 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1330 GMT 21 Oct 90

[Text] Modir Sayyed Rahman, a ringleader of the Gulbuddin extremist group in parts of Vardak Province, has shown his opposition to the plans of Pakistan's military intelligence organization and Gulbuddin and has broken with the aforementioned group. The BIA military section reports that presently he and his group are standing against the groups attached to Gulbuddin in Vardak Province.

Five extremists were arrested yesterday in the course of mopping-up operations carried out in parts of Badghis Province by units and companies of the Armed Forces. The BIA military section reports that as a result of this operation, security has been ensured in 14 villages, and a ZK-1 and nine various types of weapons belonging to the extremists were seized by the Armed Forces.

As a result of heroic resistance by the personnel of the security posts of Baghlan-Konduz, recently an attack by extremist groups attached to Gulbuddin was pushed back. The BIA military section reports that as a result of retaliatory attacks by the security posts, 27 extremists were crushed and dozens of others were wounded. Two BM-1 and BM-14 systems and various types of weapons, light weapons, and ammunition were destroyed.

The attacks by the extremist groups of Rabbani, which began two weeks ago on the centers of the extremist groups of Gulbuddin, still continue seriously in the districts of Tagab and Kuhestan, Kapisa Province. The BIA military section reports that as a result of clashes between the two rival groups during the last two days, 13 persons from both sides were killed and dozens of others were injured. The hostile sides resorted to various types of heavy weapons and surface-to-surface missiles against each other in the course of these clashes, which hit residential areas and caused financial damage to the residences of the mentioned districts.

Army Troops on New Offensive

BK2210080390 Hong Kong AFP in English 0752 GMT 22 Oct 90

[By Amal Jayasinghe]

[Text] Kabul, Oct 22 (AFP)—Afghan forces have gone

on the offensive after resisting intensified guerrilla attacks aimed at capturing the capital Kabul and several key cities, officials said here. Offensive operations are under way in Kalat, the capital of the southeastern province of Zabul, to recapture "one or two" security posts overrun by mujahidin guerrillas, General Nabi Azimi said late Sunday.

Gen. Azimi, who is the first deputy defence minister and commander of the main Kabul garrison, told reporters there had been an upsurge of guerrilla activity in at least six provinces, including Kabol. Troops moved from village to village in the neighbouring province of Lowgar, clearing them of militants who then tried to reach Kabul but were halted by artillery and aerial attacks, he said.

Government forces also broke guerrilla defences around the eastern city of Jalalabad and have expanded their area of control, the general said, denying mujahidin claims of capturing security posts in the area. Security forces successfully fended off attacks against the town of Kuhestan, near the Iranian border, and Baghlan in northern Afghanistan and humbled a three-pronged mujahidin advance about 40 kilometres (25 miles) outside of Kabul.

General Azimi put guerrilla losses in the month-long fighting at at least 1,000 killed, wounded or captured. He said 21 guerrilla field commanders and 16 "foreign military advisors" were among the guerrilla casualties. He did not give the nationality of the foreign advisors, but repeated allegations that Pakistan's military intelligence was behind the stepped-up guerrilla attacks.

Gen. Azimi declined to give the government's own losses in the latest fighting. But officials admitted privately that security forces too suffered heavy casualties. Asian diplomats here said the Kabul regime seems to have got over a difficult period and the ongoing fighting should die down with the onset of winter by mid-November. "There is no doubt that the government was under tremendous pressure. But the mujahidin have proved ineffective against the air force," a diplomat said.

However, earlier in the month, the guerrillas seized Tarin Kowt, the capital of Oruzgan province, marking their first major victory since Soviet troops completed their withdrawal from Afghanistan in February 1989. Tarin Kot, regarded here as a relatively unimportant town, fell after the governor of the province defected with a section of the 500-man garrison there. Military officials have refused to give details.

But Gen. Azimi ruled out similar guerrilla successes elsewhere, saying his troops enjoyed "high morale and combat preparedness." He dismissed guerrilla claims that the recent attacks were part of routine operations against the Kabul regime and said it was the best fight the mujahidin could put up.

The leader of the Hezb-i-Islami mujahidin group, Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, has said that a major onslaught on Kabul was yet to be staged and that fighting in the past month was routine. Gen. Azimi said the government could take advantage of the reversals suffered by the mujahidin to push them back further and put the main cities out of the reach of guerrilla rockets.

Troops will also move to reopen a strategic highway linking the capital with most of the western, southern and southeastern provinces, Gen. Azimi said. Operations were on to clear a stretch of road between Kalat and Kandahar in the south, he said. Mujahidin field commanders, with the exception of Mr. Hekmatyar, met recently and resolved to coordinate operations better in a bid to seize a major city before winter, mujahidin sources in Pakistan said last week.

Najibullah Receives UN Secretary General Envoy

LD2110170290 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 21 Oct 90

[Text] The presidential press office reports that esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, met this afternoon at the Presidential Palace with His Excellency Benon Sevan, deputy and special envoy of the UN secretary general.

During the meeting, which was attended by Muhammad Eshaq Tokhi, vice president, Benon Sevan informed esteemed Najibullah about the efforts by the United Nations aimed at reaching an agreement on a political solution in Afghanistan.

The esteemed president of Afghanistan expressed the desire of the Republic of Afghanistan for a speedy establishment of peace and the ending of fratricide in the country. He also reiterated the peace proposal and ways of implementing them which is being proposed by the leadership of the Republic of Afghanistan. Esteemed Najibullah expressed the hope that the United Nations will intensify its efforts to achieve a peaceful solution to the issue of Afghanistan.

Bangladesh

Student Activist Dies in Police Custody

BK2010072490 Hong Kong AFP in English 0717 GMT 20 Oct 90

[Text] Dhaka, Oct 20 (AFP)—An 18-year-old political student activist has died in police custody in western Bangladesh after being detained for participating in anti-government demonstrations, newspapers here said Saturday. Jahidul Islam was detained Tuesday during nationwide demonstrations against the government of President Hussain Mohammad Ershad and died late Friday at the Rajshahi Medical College Hospital of head injuries, reports said.

It was not clear whether he was injured during a demonstration or while being held in prison. His death brought the toll in violence linked to opposition's latest round of the oust-Ershad campaign to seven. Six people, including

two students, died between October 10 and 13 during the demonstrations in Dhaka and Chittagong.

Political activists marched down the streets of the district town with Mr. Islam's body, and at least 25 people including policemen were injured in brief clashes over the incident. Tension was running high and police were deployed in the area as anti-government agitation continued across Bangladesh.

Papers Say Government Circular Urges Crackdown

BK2110060190 Hong Kong AFP in English 0535 GMT 21 Oct 90

[Text] Dhaka, Oct 21 (AFP)—Bangladesh authorities have ordered officials across the country to adopt "tough" measures against anti-government demonstrators, as opposition activists prepared for a day of action Sunday. The MORNING SUN newspaper said a "coded" circular had been issued, instructing administrative and police chiefs to detain political leaders and activists and to take necessary "preventive measures" if faced with attack.

The opposition, as part of its onging campaign against the eight-year-old regime of President Hussain Mohammad Erhsad, has called for nationwide mass demonstrations and occupations of administrative offices around the country. Police inspector general, Tayebur Rahman, called on citizens Sunday to report incidents and help security forces improve law and order in Bangladesh.

District and sub-district officials were trying to dissuade political leaders in their respective areas from attending any demonstrations, the MORNING SUN said. Meanwhile, syndicate members of the five universities closed last week by the government have repeated their request to reopen the schools.

Teachers at Jahangirnagar University asked their vice chancellor to boycott a coming meeting with the chancellor of Bangladesh's seven universities, President Ershad. The Dhaka University Syndicate, the school's highest policy making body, called on the government to withdraw a new ordinance, effective from October 13, which has been used to shut the universities and other schools in the face of growing student unrest.

The school teachers also planned a protest rally later Sunday on the campus. A group of leading Bangladeshi lawyers Thursday served the government with a "demand for justice" notice, challenging the legality of the universities' closure. The petitioners gave the government until Sunday to reopen the schools or they said they would take the action to court.

"The court will open after a vacation Wednesday and since the government has not replied to our notice, we are free to go ahead," barrister Ishtiaq Ahmed said, adding that preparing court papers took time.

In a sudden swoop on Dhaka University campus late Saturday, police detained at least 30 activists on suspicion, but later set them free, authorities said Sunday. The opposition has been campaigning for the resignation of President Ershad and the holding of free and fair elections under a caretaker neutral government. They maintain that fair polls would not be possible with the 60-year-old former general in power.

India

Discussion Continues on Disputed Shrine Site

Government Begins Talks

BK1910125490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 19 Oct 90

[Excerpt] High-level negotiations are underway in the capital between the government and the Vishwa Hindu Parishad [VHP, World Hindu Council] to resolve the Ayodhya temple issue amicably. While the details are not immediately known, two union ministers Mr. P. Upendra and Mr. George Fernandes met with the VHP leader Mr. Ashoke Singhal today and certain proposals are reported to have been discussed at the meeting.

Meanwhile, the general secretary of the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party], Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi, told reporters that his party will welcome any agreement between the government and the VHP. He also said that the BJP will consider its stand on the Rath Yatra [chariot journey] if so desired by the VHP. Dr. Joshi met the prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, and their talks lasted about 45 minutes. The National Front chairman, Mr. N.T. Rama Rao, and the West Bengal chief minister, Mr. Jyoti Basu, held separate discussions with the BJP chief, Mr. L.K. Advani, and urged him to reconsider his decision to go ahead with the Rath Yatra. But Mr. Advani stuck to his stand. He also said he will leave for Dhanbad in Bihar this evening as scheduled. [passage omitted]

Ready To Accept Three-Point Plan

BK1910161090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1545 GMT 19 Oct 90

[Text] A report just received says that the government is prepared to accept a three-point formula on the Ram Janambhoomi-Babri Masjid [Hindu-Muslim disputed shrine] issue to help maintain peace and communal harmony.

The formula thrashed out at various negotiations says that the government may acquire the disputed land in Ayodhya. The Ram Janam Bhoomi Yagya Sammiti [Hindu religious committee] and the trust may be given some of the land in the area for the construction of a temple and the court case, which is pending before the Lucknow bench in the Allahabad High Court, may be referred to the Supreme Court for expeditious disposal. Till then the government will maintain the status quo on the disputed area.

The union minister, Mr. P. Upendra, told newsmen a short while ago that the government is inclined to accept the proposal if the parties concerned are agreeable.

Government Takes Site

BK2010083090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0435 GMT 20 Oct 90

[Text] The center has acquired the disputed land at Ayodhya regarding Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid [disputed shrine claimed by both Hindus and Muslims] and the adjoining areas. The dispute is pending before the Allahabad High Court. The acquisition has been done through a presidential ordinance issued late last night. The ordinance says barring such disputed land, which was before the Allahabad High Court, the other acquired areas will be made available to the Ram Janmabhoomi Yajna Samiti or Nyas [trust] for the construction of the Sri Ram Temple. The Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid dispute will be referred to the Supreme Court under Article 143 for expeditious disposal. Pending the decision of the Supreme Court, the government will maintain the status quo in the disputed area. Our correspondent reports that the ordinance has been issued according to the three-point formula thrashed out during the prolonged discussions the prime minister had during the last few days on the Ayodhya issue with the concerned parties as well as various religious leaders and eminent citizens.

The Vishwa Hindu Parishad [World Hindu Council—VHP] is reported to have rejected the new compromise formula offered by the government to resolve the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid issue. According to the director of the Sri Ram Kar Sewa Samiti [the commitee organizing voluntary community service for the construction of Ram Temple] media center, Mr. Agnihotri, the proposal was rejected by the VHP general secretary, Mr Ashoke Singhal, during a meeting with the union ministers—Mr. Upendra and Mr. George Fernandes—in New Delhi last night.

BJP Threatens Singh Support

BK2010091690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 20 Oct 90

[Text] The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] president, Mr. L.K. Advani, has again voiced his party's decision to withdraw support to the National Front government if he is arrested or his Rath Yatra [chariot journey to the disputed shrine] is stayed. He was talking to newsmen on his arrival at Dhanbad in Bihar this morning. Mr. Advani said though some progress has been made in the talks in Delhi, the core issue of the smooth progress of the Rath Yatra and construction of the Ram Temple at Ayodhya has remained unresolved.

In New Delhi, the BJP general secretary, Mr. J.P. Mathur, said his party is studying the ordinance issued by the president taking over the disputed land near Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid and adjoining areas at Ayodhya. He said the central leadership of the BJP will discuss the issue later today.

Meanwhile, elaborate security arrangements have been made in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh in view of Mr. Advani's Rath Yatra. Our Lucknow correspondent reports that heavy deployment of security forces is being made in and around Faizabad and Ayodhya to maintain law and order. Police pickets have also been set up at sensitive points all along the parikrama [walkway] route in Ayodhya and Faizabad.

In Bihar also, elaborate security arrangements have been made in Ranchi to maintain peace and law and order in view of the Rath Yatra scheduled to start from Dhanbad. The Rath Yatra is scheduled to reach Ranchi town this evening. Our correspondent reports that 14 additional companies of police force, including the BSF [Border Security Force] and CRPF [Central Reserve Police Force] have been deployed. The deputy commissioner, Mr. Sudhir Prasad, told our correspondent that one column of the Army has also been kept in standby to help the district administration to meet any eventuality.

Praises Government Site Control

BK2010130990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1135 GMT 20 Oct 90

[Text] The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] president, Mr. L.K. Advani, has described the center's proposal to acquire the disputed land in Ayodhya as a positive step. He was addressing a public meeting at Dhanbad from where the Rath Yatra [chariot journey] was resumed amid tight security today. Mr. Advani did not comment on the center's three-point formula, but said that minor progress has been made and he would like to go through the original first. He reiterated his party's decision to withdraw support to the National Front government if he is arrested or his Rath Yatra is stopped.

Mr. Advani expressed the view that the center should take into confidence the leaders of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad [World Hindu Council] who have launched the present agitation for renovating the Ram Temple in Ayodhya.

Further on BJP Stand

BK2010165890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 20 Oct 90

[Text] The Bharatiya Janata Party [BJP] has described the presidential ordinance on the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid [disputed shrine] issue as a small but delayed step in the right direction. The party general secretary, Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi, said in New Delhi that the party leaders today studied the ordinance and felt that the dispute cannot be resolved unless the central question of Garva Griha [sanctum sanctorum] is settled. He said there is no concrete suggestion in this direction. Reiterating his party's stand that the issue cannot be settled through litigation, Dr. Joshi said the ordinance

provides for shifting the cases from the Allahabad High Court to the Supreme Court without any time limit for its disposal.

The Vishwa Hindu Parishad, the Ram Kar Sewa Samiti, and the Ram Janmabhoomi Mukti Yajna Samiti [Hindu organizations campaigning for construction of Lord Rama Temple in Ayodhya] have rejected the new compromise formula. In a join statement, Mahant Avaidyanath and Mr. Ashoke Singhal said they cannot accept any suggestion if the sanctum sanctorum is not made available to them. They said the kar sewa [voluntary community service] for the renovation of the temple will start on the 30th of this month as planned.

The BJP president, Mr. L.K. Advani, has said that his party will not accept any formula that does not provide for construction of the temple at Ram Janmabhoomi [birthplace of Lord Rama]. He said this while addressing public meetings at Dhanbad and Bokaro today. The Rath Yatra [chariot journey] was resumed today from Dhanbad amid tight security. Mr. Advani again stated his party's decision to withdraw support to the National Front government if he is arrested or his Rath Yatra is stopped. Mr. Advani said the center should take into confidence the leaders of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad [World Hindu Council] who have launched the present agitation for renovating the Ram Temple in Ayodhya.

Congress-I Not To Support BJP

BK2010121990 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 19 Oct 90

[Text] The Congress-I president, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, says his party would not support the Bharatiya Janata Party [BJP] if it forms a new government. He was replying to questions by reporters at Hyderabad Airport today. Mr. Gandhi said the Congress-I would continue to offer constructive opposition to any government, excepting the BJP. The Congress-I president said that his party boycotted the all-party meeting on the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid [disputed shrine] issue on Wednesday last as it felt that it was a waste of time to attend meetings not being conducted with seriousness.

Left Parties Welcome Plan

BK2010103990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 20 Oct 90

[Text] The left parties have welcomed the three-point formula announced by the government last night to solve the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid [disputed shrine] issue. The leaders of the CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist], CPI, RSP [Revolutionary Socialist Party], and Forward Bloc met in New Delhi today and extended full support to the government's move. They also appealed to all, including the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] and the Vishwa Hindu Parishad [World Hindu Council—VHP], to accept the formula. They said this is the only way to avert a possible communal flareup which can be dangerous for the unity of the country. The parties also emphasized that while referring the dispute to Supreme Court, no party should be deprived of presenting relevant arguments before the court, so that a proper judicial opinion can be given on all aspsects of the case. Those who attended the meeting included Mr. Hrkishan Singh Surjeet and Mr. Jyoti Basu, CPI-M; Mr. Farooqi, CPI; Mr. Tridiv Chowdhury, RSP; and Mr. D.B. Shastri of the Forward Bloc.

A spokesman of the Sri Ram Kar Sewa Samiti [the committee organizing voluntary community service for the construction of the Ram Temple] in New Delhi said the formula does not touch the core of the issue and reiterated that the temple should be allowed to be built at Ram Janmsthan [Lord Rama's birthplace].

The Congress-I president, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, has refused to comment on the formula. Talking to newsmen in Cochin today, he said no comment is necessary as the concerned parties have already rejected it. The Tamil Nadu chief minister, Mr. M. Karunanidhi, has welcomed the three-point formula. In a statement in Madras today, he appealed to all concerned leaders to accept the government's proposal to safeguard the country's unity.

More Parties Praise Solution

BK2010131490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1135 GMT 20 Oct 90

[Excerpt] The chairman of the National Front, Mr. N.T. Rama Rao, has said that the decision of the government to acquire the disputed land and refer the matter to the Supreme Court is the only solution to the current impasse in the Ram Janambhoomi-Babri Masjid dispute. In a statement in New Delhi today, he said all people who have the country's interest uppermost in their mind should come out and support the three-point formula. He also appealed to the leaders of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad [World Hindu Council] to positively response to the government's initiative in the interest of communal harmony.

The Akali Dal-Longowal has also welcomed the three-point formula suggested by the center. In a press release in New Delhi today, the party spokesman, Bakhshi Jagdev Singh, said that in view of the present situation, this was the only possible solution for the government. He has appealed to the people to maintain peace and communal harmony. [passage omitted]

Muslims Demand Immediate Repeal

BK2010163390 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 20 Oct 90

[Text] Some Muslim leaders met in Delhi today under the chairmanship of the Shahi Imam of Jama Masjid [chief prayer leader of the Delhi's grand mosque], Maulana Syed Abdullah Bukhari, and demanded an immediate withdrawal of the presidential ordinance acquiring the disputed land in Ayodhya. In a resolution, they alleged that the ordinance interferes with the Muslim Personal Law. Later, at a news conference, the

leaders described the ordinance as an unconstitutional act and said they will oppose it. Those who spoke to the newsmen included Sultan Salal Bin Ovaisi and Mr. Zafaryab Jilani.

The Babri Masjid [disputed mosque] Movement Coordination Committee has rejected the government's three-point formula. In a statement, it said the government should not bypass the judicial process.

The All India Shi'a Conference today offered to shift the Babri Masjid if the government ensures protection of religious places of all communities. The conference is one of the defendants in the Allahabad High Court case.

Religious Activity Permitted

BK2010163590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 20 Oct 90

[Text] Government today clarified that the presidential ordinance acquiring the disputed land in Ayodhya does not stop any ongoing religious activity or right of worship there. The clarification came from the official spokesman in New Delhi, who said status quo shall also be maintained on the use of the building. He said all legal proceedings in the Ram janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid [disputed shrine] issue pending before any court or tribunal cease to exist with the promulgation of the ordinance by the president late last night. The spokesman added that a reference will soon be made to the Supreme Court for expeditious disposal of the dispute. Mr. Madhukar Gupta, divisional commissioner of Faizabad, has been appointed as the authorized person to manage the property on behalf of the central government in terms of clause 7 of the ordinance.

The center has called a meeting of chief ministers of all states, governors of Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir, and the lieutenant governor of Delhi on Monday [22 October] to discuss the current situation in the context of Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid issue. The prime minister has convened the meeting to elicit the views of the chief ministers on the issue and to apprise them of the action taken by the government. Mr. V.P. Singh will also be meeting representatives of voluntary organizations and intellectuals on Monday.

Meanwhile, hectic political activity is continuing in the capital to find an amicable settlement. The prime minister today met some political and religious leaders. The minister of state for home, Mr. Subodhkant Sahay, is also having separate discussions with religious leaders. The Union Cabinet met this morning and is understood to have discussed the issues relating to Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid dispute.

500 Arrested in Ayodhya

BK2110051590 Hong Kong AFP in English 1921 GMT 20 Oct 90

[Text] New Delhi, Oct 20 (AFP)—The authorities Saturday began tightening security in northern India as the government took over a holy place claimed by Hindus and Moslems in a bid to ease communal tension. Hindu groups meanwhile said they were determined to go ahead with a plan to build a temple on the disputed site despite an order by President Ramaswamy Venkataraman late Friday taking over the land in Ayodhya.

"Pending the decision of the (supreme) court, the government has also decided to maintain the status quo on the disputed area," the presidential fiat said. Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh Saturday called a meeting Monday of all state chief ministers to discuss the situation, a government spokesman said.

The revivalist Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP—World Hindu Council), the main group sponsoring the plan to build a temple of Lord Rama, a Hindu god, at the site, said it did not approve of the government takeover. "Anything coming in the way of the date, time, place and the model of the proposed temple ... will be rejected," VHP General Secretary Ashok Singhal said.

There could be no compromise on the claim to the site, where Hindus say Lord Rama was born, he said, adding that the Supreme Court might not be able to give its decision before October 30, the date fixed to begin building the temple. Hindus say Babar, the founder of the Moghul empire in the 16th century, built the existing Babri Masjid (mosque) on the site after destroying a temple to Lord Rama. Moslems reject this account.

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP—Indian People's Party), a key ally of Mr. V.P. Singh's minority National Front government and which supports the VHP temple plan, said Saturday the president's order could be a step forward. BJP President Lal Krishna Advani, currently on a 10,000-kilometre (6,250-mile) rath-yatra, or chariot-ride to Ayodhya to mobilise public opinion in favour of the Hindu claim, was quoted by a party spokesman here as saying that the takeover of the site was "a step forward towards a solution."

BJP spokesman Kishen Lal Sharma said Mr. Advani told him by telephone that the government's peace formula must have VHP approval. Moslem groups have demanded that Mr. Advani call off his trek while the government has made repeated appeals for him to abandon it on the grounds that it could stoke up communal tensions between Hindus and Moslems who account for 12 per cent of India's 850 million people. Mr. Advani has rejected these demands and threatened to withdraw BJP support for Mr. Singh's government if he is arrested.

BJP General Secretary Murli Manohar Joshi said here the party might accept referring the controversy to the Supreme Court if the government in turn accepted that the site was the birthplace of Lord Rama. The government formula announced Friday also included permission to Hindus to build a temple on an adjacent site.

Shahi Imam Abdullah Bukhari, the chief priest of the historic Moghul-built Jama Masjid Mosque in the walled

city of Old Delhi, criticised the takeover. "We have been immensely let down by the government. They have even acquired the land which belonged to the Wakf (the local religious body managing Islamic property)," Mr. Bukhari said.

Meanwhile, soldiers Saturday staged flag marches in six towns of Uttar Pradesh state's Faizabad District which administers Ayodhya, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) said. Some 500 preventive arrests have been made in Ayodhya, officials were quoted by PTI as saying there Saturday.

The army was ordered to stand by in Bihar, to avert any violence after Mr. Advani resumed his journey, PTI said. The Uttar Pradesh Government has also sealed that state's entire border with Delhi to prevent Ayodhya-bound Hindu marchers from entering the state, PTI said in a separate report.

Four people were killed and six injured when a bomb they were making went off outside Bihar's steel town of bokaro Saturday, PTI said, adding that one of the injured was in a "critical" condition. Bokaro is Mr. Advani's next stop. PTI did not say if the blast was in any way linked to his campaign. The Uttar Pradesh State Government has said it will not allow Mr. Advani's chariot or other Hindu marchers to enter Ayodhya for the proposed temple building.

Leaders View Temple Issue

BK2110054690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 21 Oct 90

[Text] The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] president, Mr. L.K. Advani, has welcomed the government's decision to acquire the disputed land of the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid [disputed Ayodhya shrine]. Addressing a public meeting in Ranchi yesterday, he said it is a right gesture in the right direction for resolving the Ayodhya temple issue. Mr. Advani said that the BJP does not want the demolition of the Babri-Masjid [Babri-Mosque] as it is against the Hindu ethos. It wants the Masjid [mosque] to be shifted to about five kilometers from the present site and the Ram temple built there.

The Bihar chief minister, Mr. Lalu Prasad Yadav, has hailed the presidential ordinance and described it as a step in the right direction. Mr. Yadav said the government's three-point formula on the issue is the best way to solve the problem. Welcoming the government's initiative, the BJP leader, Mr. Atal Vihari Vajpayee, said that the center will have to take more steps to make its proposal acceptable to all parties.

The CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] has said that the stand taken by BJP and Vishwa Hindu Parishad [World Hindu Council] to continue the Rath Yatra [chariot journey] and construct the Ram temple have forced great threats to communal harmony and national integration. In a statement in Calcutta yesterday, the CPI-M Central Committee member and the state secretary, Mr.(Soilendas) Gupta said the BJP's refusal to respond to the appeals by the National Integration Council and other political parties to refrain from mixing politics with religion made the situation very complicated.

The CPI [Communist Party of India] has urged the center not to succumb to any pressure even if it means the collapse of the National Front government. Speaking at the press conference in Bhubaneswar, the CPI general secreatry, Mr. Indrajit Gupta, said that the government should take all measures to protect the Constitution and stand firm on the Ayodhya temple issue. The senior Janata Dal member, Mr. Chandra Shekhar, has criticized the center for not consulting the Uttar Pradesh chief minister, Mr. Mulayam Singh Yadav, before issuing the ordinance.

Muslim Leaders Welcome Ordinance

BK2110121690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 21 Oct 90

[Text] Several prominent Muslim religious leaders have welcomed the ordinance on the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid [disputed shrine]. In a joint statement, they said the step reflects the government's detemination to resolve the issue through peaceful negotiations. They expressed the hope that the action will strengthen secular forces in the country.

The signatories to the statement are: Maulana Abul Hassan Nadvi, rector, Nadwatul Ulema; Dr. Maulana Qulbe Sadiq of Lucknow; Maulana Hamiduddin Aqueel Hussaini of Hyderabad; Maulana Salim Qasmi of Mutamil Darul Uloom, Deoband; Maulana Abdul Karim Tariq of Nagpur; and Maulana Mukhtar Ahmad Nadvi of Bombay.

Consultations Continue

BK2110164490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 21 Oct 90

[Text] Intense consultations continued in New Delhi today at various levels on the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid [disputed shrine] issue. The prime minister met prominent Muslim leaders. They include Syed Shahabuddin, Mr. Ibrahim Sulaiman Sait, Mr. G.M. Banatwala, Syed Ahmad Bukhjari, Mr. Zafaryar Jilani, and Mr. Javed Habib. The prime minister also had a meeting with the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] general secretary, Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi. He held separate discussions with Professor Rajendra Singh and Mr. Manupat Pingley. The official spokesman told newspersons that the cabinet committee on political affairs met in the evening and took stock of the situation. The center has convened a conference of chief ministers in the capital tomorrow to discuss the current situation in the context of the Ram Janambhoomi-Babri Masjid issue.

According to the BJP spokesman, the chief ministers of the three states ruled by the party will attend the meeting. He reiterated there is no change in the party

stand and the Rath Yatra [chariot journey] is continuing. The general secretary of the Muslim League, Mr. G.M. Banatwala, as well as some prominent Hindu leaders have criticized the presidential ordinance. Mr. Banatwala said in a statement that the ordinance in its present form is unacceptable to his party.

A joint statement by four Hindu religious leaders has maintained that Ram's birthplace is a matter of faith and cannot be adjudicated by a court of law. The signatories to the statement include Swami Satymitranand and Swami Chinmayanand. Eight Muslim leaders, including Abu Sayeed, vice president of the All India Muslim Personal Law Board, Bangalore, expressed the view that the Allahabad High Court should be asked to have speedy hearings of the case instead of referring to the Supreme Court.

The BJP president, Mr. L.K. Advani, has said that the ordinance promulgated for acquiring the disputed area in Ayodhya is to some extent a right step. Addressing newsmen in Ranchi today, he said the government should find a solution to the dispute acceptable to both the Hindus and Muslims. Mr. Advani reiterated that his party will accept a settlement that the government and the Vishwa Hindu Parishad [VHP—World Hindu Council] may reach.

In Uttar Pradesh, security arrangements have been further tightened as the proposed date for the construction of the Ram temple in Ayodhya draws near. About 100 companies of the paramilitary forces have been deployed at different places to maintain law and order. A police official of the rank of director general is camping in Ayodhya to supervise the law and order situation. Official sources told our Lucknow correspondent that the check posts each manned by police and magistrate have been set up in and around Faizabad and Ayodhya. Several trains of the Northern and Northeastern Railway have either been suspended or diverted till the second of next month. Police escorts are being provided in each compartment of trains passing through the state. The state government has cautioned the people not to be misled by rumors spread by certain elements to create tension and violence. Meanwhile, preventive arrests in apprehension of breach of peace are continuing in certain places in the state. The district magistrate of Lucknow has ordered closure of all shops of firearms till the second of next month. Meanwhile, the VHP has reiterated that construction of the Ram temple will begin on October the 30th as scheduled. Addressing a rally, the VHP general secretary, Mr. Ashoke Singhal, said in Calcutta today that the agitation will continue till the temple was constructed.

Government To Review Plan

BK2210035290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 22 Oct 90

[Text] The Government is prepared to review the three-point formula on resolving the Ram Janambhoomi-Babri Masjid dispute in view of its rejection by both concerned parties. An official spokesman said in New Delhi last night that a meeting of the cabinet committee on political affairs has decided not to make the implementation of the formula an issue of prestige. AIR [All India Radio] correspondent says that the formula was put forward by the government on Friday last [19 October] when the presidential ordinance was issued to vest all disputed areas in Ayodhya in the central government. The formula was devised to meet the desire of the Hindus regarding construction of Shri Ram [Hindu god] temple at Ayodhya, while respecting the sentiments of the Muslims and to maintain status quo pending settlement of all disputes through a reference of the issue to the Supreme Court.

The prime minister has convened a conference of all chief ministers, the governors of Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir and lieutenant governors of the union territories in New Delhi today to discuss the current situation in the context of the Ram Janambhoomi-Babri Masjid issue. The prime minister will also meet leaders of voluntary organizations and intellectuals to seek their views. Intense consultations continued in the capital yesterday at various levels on the issue.

The Congress-I Working Committee is also meeting in New Delhi this morning to discuss the current political situation in the country.

The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] president, Mr. L.K. Advani, has said that the construction of the Ram temple at Ayodhya would begin on schedule on the 30th of this month. Addressing a series of meetings in Bihar during the second phase of his rath yatra [chariot journey] yesterday, he said the disputed land in Ayodhya acquired by the central government should be handed over to the Vishwa Hindu Parishad [World Hindu Council] for construction of the Ram temple.

The union petroleum and chemicals minister, Mr. Gurupadaswamy, has appealed to the BJP president, Mr. L.K. Advani, to terminate his rath yatra as it will create communal tension in the country. He was addressing a meeting of the Hind Mazdoor Sabha [Indian Workers Conference] in Cochin. Mr. Gurupadaswamy said that the National Front government will protect the communal harmony in the country at any cost. He said the double standard of the Congress-I on this issue has been fully exposed when it boycotted the all-party meet.

In Uttar Pradesh, security arrangements have been further tightened. Over 100 companies of paramilitary forces have been deployed at different places to maintain law and order. Agency reports say that several preventive arrests have been made in the state in apprehension of a breach of peace. Several trains of the Northern and Northeastern Railways have either been suspended or diverted till the second of next month. Police escorts are being provided in each compartment of the trains passing through the state.

Court Rejects Muslim Petition

BK2210094090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 22 Oct 90

[Text] The Supreme Court today rejected a petition, seeking a direction to the government to ask the Bharatiya Janata Party to stop the rath yatra [chariot journey] led by the party president, Mr. Advani. The petition by the All India Muslim committee was rejected by the Chief Justice Mr. Ranganath Mishra and Mr. Justice Kuldip Singh.

Ministerial Committee Established

BK2210132790 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 22 Oct 90

[Text] A six-member committee of the chief ministers has been constituted to continue efforts to find out an amicable solution to the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid [disputed shrine] issue. The committee was set up at the chief ministers' meeting held in New Delhi today. Its members are the chief ministers of West Bengal, Mr. Jyoti Basu; Mr. Biju Patnaik of Orissa; Mr. Sharad Pawar, Mahashtra; Mr. Bhairon Singh Shekhawat, Rajasthan; Dr. Chenna Reddy, Andhra Pradesh; and the chief minister of Gujarat, Mr. Chiman Bhai Patel. The committee is holding its first meeting in the capital tonight.

Briefing newsmen, the official spokesman said the Vishwa Hindu Parishad's [World Hindu Council] program to start construction of the Sri Ram [Hindu God] temple at Ayodhya on the 30th of this month and the initiative taken by the goverment to resolve the dispute and defuse the situation were discussed at length by the chief ministers.

Almost all the chief ministers stressed the need for a conciliatory approach and felt that efforts should continue for a negotiated settlement. They noted the efforts made by the prime minister and the government by holding a series of discussions with concerned parties, religious heads, and eminent public men to thrash out a solution to the vexed problem. While some chief ministers expressed concern over the law-and-order problem in view of the rath yatra [chariot journey] of Mr. L.K. Advani, the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] chief ministers from Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, and Madhya Pradesh pointed out that there has been no violence on the route and there is no need for any apprehension on this account. Some chief ministers said Mr. Advani should be persuaded to abandon the rath yatra.

Intervening during the discussion, the prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, who presided over the meeting, said that the country is being given six more months to grapple with the problem. He said meanwhile a special bench of the high court may be set up to dispose of the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid case expeditiously through day- to-day hearings. Earlier, in his opening remarks the prime minister informed the meeting of the steps taken by the government during the past few months to defuse the situation. He said the government has been in touch with different parties connected with the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid issue.

The minister of state for home, Mr. Subodh Kant Sahay had seven rounds of discussions with the Vishwa Hindu Parishad, Muslim leaders, and other religious leaders to evolve a consensus. The Army staged flag marches in sensitive areas of Gorakhpur, Kanpur, and Meerut cities today, apprehending breach of peace in view of the proposed entry of Bharatiya Janata Party president, Mr. L.K. Avdani's rath yatra into neighboring Deoria on the 25th of this month. AIR [All India Radio] Kanpur correspondent reports that security has been tightened and police pickets set up at sensitive places in Kanpur District.

Ship Returns to Bombay With 692 Gulf Returnees

BK1910163690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 19 Oct 90

[Text] The Indian ship, Tipu Sultan, reached Bombay this morning on its third and last voyage from Dubayy. It has brought 692 Gulf returnees, including 10 infants. Another ship, Akbar, is likely to reach Bombay on next Wednesday with about 1,500 passengers.

Government To Control Dual-Purpose Chemicals

BK2010155890 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 0910 GMT 20 Oct 90

["Official Spokesman's Statement dated 13 10 90 Regarding Control on Export of Dual Purpose Chemicals Which Can Be Used To Manufacture Chemical Weapons"—ISI headline]

[Text] The government is to put into operation a system of control to manufacture chemical weapons [CW]. It has established a list of chemicals export which will require prior clearance of the govenment. A detailed procedure has been instituted for this purpose. In doing so, it has taken care to ensure that the normal business and trade of the concerned industries is not hindered. The second important aspect of the government's decision is the implementation of a system of verification of the manufacture and export of specific dual purpose chemicals through data reporting by the concerned Indian firms and monitoring of that data by the government. In keeping with its firm commitment to completely abolish chemical weapons, India is the only country which has set into motion a system to verify compliance with non-production of chemical weapons as part of the regime for a future CW convention. The list of dual purpose chemicals have been prepared according to the guidelines being determined by the conference on disarmament in Geneva and taking into account the structure of the chemical industry in India.

Minister Says Pakistan Still Abets Terrorism

BK1910162890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 19 Oct 90

[Text] The minister of state for external affairs, Mr. Harikishore Singh, has said that Pakistan is indifferent to India's peace initiatives and is still aiding and abetting terrorism in Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir. Talking to newsmen in Calcutta this afternoon, he said New Delhi's relations with all other neighbors are very good.

Kashmir Militants Report Training

BK2210094590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 22 Oct 90

[Text] The majority of the recently-arrested militants of the Kashmsir valley have confessed that they were forcibly taken to Pakistan-occupied Kashmir by the agents of terrorist organizations for arms training. Talking to newsmen, the militants have asked the youths engaged in militant activities not to waste their energy and time, as nothing will come out of these antinational activities. They have disclosed that the agents of terrorist outfits active in the Kashmir valley have resorted to forcibly pushing innocent people to training camps across the border.

Most of the arrested 42 militants belong to the outlawed Hizbul Mujahideen and Allah Tigers organizations. They were arrested by the security forces on the line of actual control during this month.

Australian Sale of Mirage To Pakistan Criticized

BK1910162590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 19 Oct 90

[Text] India has expressed dismay and unhappiness at the decision of the Australian Government to shift 50 Mirage-3 aircraft to Pakistan by early next month. An External Affairs Ministry spokesman said today that India had least expected such a step from a friendly country. He said the Mirage deal is contrary to the assurances given by the Australian foreign minister, Senator Gerath Evans, during his visit to this country in August last.

Majority of Seized Drugs Comes From Pakistan

BK2110152690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 21 Oct 90

[Text] India being sandwiched between the Golden Triangle and the Golden Crescent has become a victim of transit traffic of drugs for Western destinations. This has been stated by the deputy director of Narcotics Control Board of India, Mr. Dalbir Singh, at a meeting of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies in Beijing. Mr. Dalbir Singh said that during the last two years, more than half of the seizures of heroin and hashish by Indian authorities came from Pakistan. The meeting was attended by all South Asian countries except Pakistan.

Kashmir Secretariat To Function in Jammu 22 Oct

BK2110170790 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 21 Oct 90

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, the state secretariat will start functioning in Jammu from tomorrow. These offices were closed in the summer capital Srinagar on the 15th of this month. The state government has made elaborate arrangement for providing accommodation to its employees. Meanwhile, security forces have arrested six subversives, three each from Anantnag and Pulwama districts. In Srinagar, terrorists killed one person and injured two.

Bombing Damages Government Buildings in Kashmir

BK2010170890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 20 Oct 90

[Text] In the Kashmir valley, the security forces killed one terrorist and arrested three others. The terrorist was killed in an encounter in Hanjiwala Pattan today. One AK-47 rifle and some explosive material were recovered from his possession. One security force personnel was also injured in the encounter.

The security forces arrested three Pakistan-trained terrorists in Srinagar city. One AK-47 rifle and some hand grenades were recovered from a terrorist hideout in Kupwara District. Reports of bomb blasts and arson have come in from different parts of the valley, damaging some government buildings, residential houses, and school buildings. In Srinagar city, the curfew will be relaxed for 13 hours from 0500 in the morning.

'Terrorists' Kill Senior Sikh Leader in Punjab

BK2210010290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0035 GMT 22 Oct 90

[Text] In Punjab a senior Akali Dal-Badal leader and former minister, Mr. Shishpal Singh, was shot dead by terrorists at his farm house in Amritsar yesterday evening. According to police, two terrorists, who were hiding in a sugarcane field, ambushed Shishpal Singh's car as it touched Amritsar-Ajnala road outside his farm.

Prime Minister Interviewed on Student Unrest

PM1910111490 Paris LE FIGARO in French 17 Oct 90 p 6

[Interview with Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh by Alain Peyrefitte; date, place not given]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Peyrefitte] Did you expect such violent reactions following your decision to implement the Mandal report setting quotas for the lower castes in the universities and public employment?

[Singh] I expected hesitations or protests, of course, yes... But not immolations by fire. In fact, we were surprised

by the scale of the movement and its emotional character. The students became over-excited. This is what we want to try to make them realize.

[Peyrefitte] How do you explain the fact that the students' movement continued after your decision to no longer apply quotas in the universities and to apply them only in public employment?

[Singh] When I presented my plan to Parliament 7 August all the political parties approved it, even though some minor differences were expressed with regard to means of implementation. It is on record! The amazing thing is the contradiction between this initial agreement to favor the lower castes and the sympathy that the student movement seems to enjoy.

There was virtually no response for a fortnight; then the tension started to mount irrationally and differently from state to state. But the violence remains relatively limited. You have to maintain a sense of proportion.

[Singh] How do you explain this difference in reactions from one state to another?

[Peyrefitte] The whole of India gravitates around Delhi. The problem arises principally in Delhi. But Delhi is not India. Indeed, the only difficult areas outside Delhi are Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, and certain hot spots of unrest in the Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, and Madhya Pradesh.

[Peyrefitte] How do you explain the fact that there was agreement among the parties on the Mandal report followed by disagreement on its implementation?

[Singh] The parties are completely out of their depth in this matter! The social impetus is much more powerful than the political impetus. The decisions we have made affect the traditional structures. The social impetus is producing uncontrolled reactions which remain outside the scope of the parties and are all the more powerful as a result.

[Peyrefitte] Anything can happen at any time because a growing number of students are saying that they will engage in acts of self-immolation. What do you plan to do?

[Singh] Nothing pains me as much as the decision made by these young people to commit self-immolation. I have been political life for 20 years. I have never experienced such deep pain. My sons are scarcely any older than these unfortunate young people who are the victims of a tragic misunderstanding. How could I fail to understand them? The misunderstanding is clearly demonstrated by the disparity between the positive reactions from the political class at the beginning of the reform and the aberrant street demonstrations which we are now witnessing. This proves that there is a deep misunderstanding of the nature of the measures taken.

[Peyrefitte] But how do you hope to calm people down?

[Singh] We are trying to open dialogue with the students. We are also considering talking with their teachers who arte in direct contact with them. It is they who should persuade the many young people who have announced their intention of committing collective self-immolation not to carry out their terrible plan. We want to launch a campaign of explanation. These young people are our children. They are not our enemies! Our first duty is to ensure that they understand us.

[Peyrefitte] I presume that the student protest is not organized and that the lack of leaders makes dialogue with them difficult?

[Singh] Absolutely. That is why we are counting on the teachers to act as intermediaries. But the effort to explain is made more difficult by the attempt by peasant trade unions and some politicians to exploit the situation to rally the students behind them and use them against the government. We must separate them.

[Peyrefitte] Basically what you are trying to do is no less than restore order to Indian society.

[Singh] When you get to the hard core of this society, and I know what I am talking about, the system allows you to change government or to change prime minister, but if you try to change the system itself it defends itself fiercely and obstinately. Any politician has to be aware of that. That prompts the reactions that we are witnessing.

[Peyrefitte] Is it primarily a question of caste or of class? You use the expression "lower castes." However, the Muslims and Christians are not affected by the caste system because they escaped it when they converted.

[Singh] The Mandal report relates essentially to the castes. It is true that in Indian society castes and classes are not necessarily parallel. People from the higher castes can belong to the lower classes. There are some very poor Brahmans. But on the other hand the vast majority—90 percent—of the people in the lower castes belong to the poorest classes. In practical terms the lower castes and the poor classes are the same. A higher caste is not always synonymous with wealth, but lower caste is almost always synonymous with poverty.

The Mandal report took three variable factors—the social factor, the education factor, and the economic factor—and combined them. It also takes account of India's religious diversity. It was not limited to caste alone because those who belong to a lower caste in one state might belong to a higher caste in another. The situation is far from uniform. Mandal therefore considered caste simply as one factor among others. That is why the Muslims and Christians, although they belong to no caste, should be able to benefit from the implementation of the Mandal report by benefitting from the reserved jobs.

[Peyrefitte] Why did you decide to implement this report suddenly?

[Singh] It was not at all sudden! The reserved jobs policy is not a sudden whim! Its aim is to reduce inequality and to eliminate discrimination. I decided, in full awareness, to tackle the fundamental problems of Indian society. For three years as leader of the Janata Dal Party, I promised to implement this plan in the first year after I came to power. You can find that promise in my election manifesto, in my general policy statement on my investiture, and even in the president's inaugural speech. It is not a surprise!

[Peyrefitte] Will you therefore go ahead?

[Singh] I am aware that some people, even in my own party, are asking me to resign. I want to reassure my party and the millions of citizens who have confidence in me. I have received a mandate from the people and I will fulfill it. My mission is to bring greater justice to our society. If I had to choose between my principles and my position as prime minister I would not hesitate to choose my principles. I am in this job to correct the glaring inequalities in our society.

[Peyrefitte] What will you do about the conflict over the Ahyodhya mosque and temple?

[Singh] Our position is clear. We are trying to secure a compromise, but without success so far.

[Peyrefitte] What if you do not obtain a peaceful settlement?

[Singh] When a country contains so many conflicting religious beliefs and cultures how should the government behave? If the search for a compromise does no succeed it must adhere to the legal authorities and the Constitution. Religion cannot be placed above the state and the Constitution. There is a fundamental principle at stake—secularity and democracy in our country.

Iran

Supreme National Security Council Discusses Gulf

LD2010170190 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 20 Oct 90

[Text] The Supreme National Security Council held a meeting this evening under the chairmanship of President Hashemi-Rafsanjani. In the meeting, which was also attended by political advisors and high-ranking military officials, the proposal for and the means of providing security in the Persian Gulf by the countries of the region, and the unacceptability of the intervention of foreign forces in the region's security were discussed and examined; necessary decisions were adopted.

Envoy Asserts No Intervention in Gulf War

PY1910183790 Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 19 Oct 90

[Text] Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, the president of the Iranian delegation to Interparliamentary Union [IPU], told El Espectador that if war breaks out in the Persian Gulf, his country will not intervene unless it is attacked.

The politician, who is considered a hard-line Muslim, also stated that his country—through the parliamentarians attending the IPU—would assess the resolution on this issue to be submitted to tomorrows IPU closing session. The Iranian representative refused to disclose the Iranian delegation's position on the declaration that was drawn up by a special commission. Uruguay is the only Latin American country represented on the mentioned commission. [recorded passage indistinct]

Official Urges Iraqi Goodwill, Prisoner Release

LD2210111190 Tehran IRNA in English 1036 GMT 22 Oct 90

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 22, IRNA—A senior official today urged Iraq to show goodwill and release Former Iranian Oil Minister Mohammad Javad Tondguyan who, he said, was alive and being kept in an Iraqi jail. Mohammad 'Ali Nazaran in charge of a commission dealing with the Iraqi POWs' affairs, also voiced Iran's demand for the release of several thousand unregistered Iranian POWs in Iraq.

"There are live and documented evidences that Mohammad Javad Tondguyan, the ex-minister of oil is alive and being held in a secret Iraqi prison," Nazaran told IRNA in an interview. "The contradictory news and dates regarding Tondguyan's death as well as information released by recently freed Iranian POWs and Iraqi officials fully confirm this view," he added. "We are waiting for the release of our former oil minister and are against his detention in Iraq. Therefore, if Iraq has goodwill it should release him immediately," Nazaran said.

He said there were also sufficient evidences that a considerable number of unregistered Iranian POWs were still being held in Iraqi camps.

Tondguyan was taken captive together with a number of Oil Ministry officials, including one of his deputies, on an assignment to the oil rich Khuzestan Province early in the war which Iraq imposed on Iran in September 1980. His deputy was among the POWs who returned home in the recent swap between the two countries.

Iran and Iraq last Thursday [18 Oct] agreed to pardon and release those prisoners of war who had committed offences during their captivity. The number of Iranian POWs falling into this category was announced to be 230. Nazaran said after the impending release of this group of Iranian POWs, Tehran was ready to free 100 Iraqi POWs daily if Baghdad reciprocated.

According to Nazaran the fate of 24,000 Iranians missing in action remains unknown, but he said Iran-Iraq technical committees would study the fate of the MIAs and those who have requested asylum.

Nazaran regretted that the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC], with the cooperation of the Baghdad-based outlawed Mojahedin Khalq Organisation had conducted private interviews with Iranians POWs and by suggesting false information discouraged them from returning home. He urged the ICRC to keep its neutrality. He said Iran was ready to arrange private ICRC meetings with those Iraqi POWs who had asked for asylum in Iran and added that this group of Iraqis would not be returned unless they wished otherwise.

Elsewhere in the interview Nazaran said Iran had received requests for the release of some Egyptian, Somalian and Lebanese mercenaries who fought alongside Iraq in the eight year old war with Iran. He added that these mercenaries would be released if deemed so by the Iranian authorities.

Towards the end of the interview, Nazaran said Iran had rendered a great service to the Muslim Iraqi nation by treating its POWs according to Islamic and humanitarian criteria as recommended by the departed leader of the Islamic Revolution Imam Khomeyni. The physical health and good morale of the freed Iraqi POWs attest to the fact that they were all treated well during their captivity here, he concluded.

Emami-Kashani Regrets U.S. Presence in Gulf

LD1910112890 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 19 Oct 90

[Text] The sites for the unifying Friday prayers today, as on previous Fridays, attracted a vast number of the faithful and pious people of our country, who participated in this eternal Muhammadan rite. The religious-political Friday prayers in Tehran were held at the University of Tehran and on the adjoining streets, with the participation of the Hezbollahi ummah under the imamate of Ayatollah Emami-Kashani.

The jurist member of the Council of Guardians, in his Friday prayers sermon, expressed his regret over the merciless massacre of palestinian Muslims by the regime occupying Jerusalem and the U.S. lack of support for the UN resolution, stressing: All of us Muslims are responsible toward this action of the regime occupying Jerusalem. We should act with vigilance and solidarity, while considering the interest of the Muslims, and we should not be indifferent toward the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

Ayatollah Emami-Kashani then referred to the occupation of Kuwaiti soil by Iraqi military forces, saying: With this aggression, Iraq caused the forces of blasphemy to occupy the various parts of the Persian Gulf. Under the pretext of removing the aggression, the United States has established her presence in holy Islamic lands such as Hejaz [southern Saudi Arabia], especially Masjid al-Haram [the holy mosque in Mecca], which is the qibla [the direction in which muslims turn to pray] of Muslims, and has polluted these holy places.

He added: The calamity of the Islamic world in the past was that Al-Aqsa Mosque was under the occupation of the infidels. Now, another calamity has afflicted the Muslims, namely the presence of the forces of blasphemy in Masjid al-Haram.

Ayatollah Emami-Kashani described the reason for the presence of blasphemous forces in the Islamic lands as the ineptitude of the rulers of Islamic countries. He called on all Muslims to heed the invitation and call of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which can solve the problem of the region without the presence of foreign forces and with the assistance of regional governments, and to exert pressure until the U.S. and other forces leave the region. He added: By respecting recognized international borders, Iraq should also leave Kuwaiti territory.

At the end of his speech, the jurist member of the Council of Guardians referred to the anniversary of the issuance of the decree of His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the leader of the Islamic revolution, about the formation of the centralization of the mosques and said: Fortunately, after the victory of the Islamic revolution, Iranian mosques emerged out of the condition of being ossified and lifeless, and today our mosques have been turned into places of teaching and discussion and centers for looking after the affairs of the Muslims. It is up to the Friday and congregational imams of the mosques of the Islamic world to propagate pure Muhammadan Islam in their mosques.

Criticizes Muslims' Deaths, Iraq

LD1910173590 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1130 GMT 19 Oct 90

[Friday prayers sermon preached by Ayatollah Emami-Kashani at Tehran University on 19 October—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted] The point which I want to raise in this sermon, with reliance on God's might and power, is, first, the situation existing in the world for Muslims and the regret which one feels over the weak response of Muslims: the merciless killing of Muslims in Palestine by the regime occupying al-Quds [Jerusalem] and the support of the U.S. Government for usurper Israel; and, even when the UN passes a resolution, the United States does not cooperate [sentence as heard] It is truly a great cause for regret.

Of course, the al-Quds-occupying regime, the Zionists and that group of Jews was a problem for Jesus, may God's peace be upon him, as well. The noble Prophet, may God's peace be upon him and his scion, [crowd chants] also had problems with them. The amount of curses directed against them in the Koran has not been aimed at any executioner or evil or corrupt person. We stand against that act of Israel and against its supporter, the United States. [passage omitted]

Another related matter which concerns events in the world of Islam is the issue of the presence of foreign

forces in the Persian Gulf. Until now, Muslims were saddened by the fact that al-Aqsa Mosque was occupied; now, we must witness Saudi Arabia—Hijaz, a Hijaz which is the house of the Noble Prophet, a Hijaz which is the House of God and al-Haram Mosque, which is the Muslims' Qiblah [direction in which Muslims pray] is sullied by a bunch of infidels, oppressors, and evil-doers at the head of which is the United States.

I must say that the misfortune of the world of Islam has so far been the misfortune of having al-Aqsa occupied by infidels. Now, the misfortune is that al-Haram mosque and the Ka'aba is being occupied. This misfortune is greater than the occupation of Palestine. For Muslims, the sorrow is greater, the sadness is greater and the misfortune is greater. [passage omitted] The infidel has laid its hands on the two mosques in this way and that is because of the governments of the region.

On the other hand, Iraq, due to its aggressive nature which she has manifested, has occupied Kuwait and has provided an excuse to the enemy. The enemy, under the pretext that she has come to remove aggression, is further spreading its tyranny, aggression, and blasphemy in the region. The incompetent Saudi Government also regards itself so weak and so feeble that it thinks that the United States is her savior. No matter how much the Islamic Republic announced and called aloud that we with the regional governments, with regional assistance, with the nations and governments, will be able to solve the problem of the region, they did not listen to her. This is a fact, for thanks be to God, now after 10 years the greatness of the Islamic Republic and the importance of the revolution and the leadership of the Islamic Republic is acceptable to most truth-seeking human beings, to those who have any understanding and who are aware of the issues.

The Islamic Republic, which is a powerful and independent country, neither Eastern nor Western, and which can claim that it is the only government and the only system under the sky which is bound by truth and bound by justice and which is not affiliated to the northern, southern, Eastern or Western blocs, and which repulses and rejects the world arrogance and has rejected all of them, and which is calling for justice, and is calling for truth. On this path she has engaged in a great deal of self-sacrifice, a great deal of devotion—our nation has sacrificed its youths; it has sacrificed its blood; it has endured homelessness; it has endured great hardships, in order to demonstrate that Islamic thinking and Islamic Government can shine like the sun and can provide light to all and can attract all. This Islamic Republic, which is worthy of providing leadership and has shown that she is worthy of this leadership—and many nations and many media have admitted its leadership capabilities—this Islamic Republic will be able to solve the regional crisis. [crowd chants slogans].

The world, the Islamic world should accept this fact that if they have a proper understanding of genuine Islam, if the Friday preachers ask in their Friday prayers what is Islam, what the mosques are for, what the Masjid al-Harm [the Holy Mosque in Mecca] is for, what the duties of the Muslims are, if the Friday and congregational imams inform the people of their duties at this juncture, they should exert pressure so that U.S. forces and other blasphemous and alien forces should leave the region, and iraq should also withdraw from Kuwait and should respect international borders. [sentence as heard]

The Islamic Republic, from the beginning till now, on the basis of Islam and law is bound by international regulations and world laws. She has been bound by them, is bound by them and is calling the peope to it. The Muslims should unite around this axis and should become vigilant. If we ourselves, if the nations, move these problems will be solved. She [Iraq] would neither engage in that aggression, nor would they continue their evil works and expand them further. This is our duty. [passage omitted]

Ahmad Khomeyni Rejects Compromise With U.S.

LD2110114690 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 21 Oct 90

[Excerpts] Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni received the commanders and the personnel of the military academy of the Islamic Republic of Iran's army, the trainers, and the officials in charge of the educational affairs of the 14th and the 16th divisions of Tehran's Education Department, a number of the martyrs' families and various strata of people, at the Jamaran mosque, before noon today.

In that meeting, Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni remarked on the determining role of the Iranian Army vis-a-vis those who violate the sanctity of the Islamic homeland, and praised the epic-making deeds of the army and those martyred on the path of the revolution. [passage omitted]

Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni condemned the presence of the U.S. forces and their allies in the Persian Gulf region. He stressed the need to maintain the army's strength and independence in terms of military knowledge and deployment of weapons.

Rejecting the viewpoints of the nationalists [meligaraha] and the liberals in terms of compromising with the United States, Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni said: Today, the world of arrogance is well aware that the major power in the Persian Gulf region is Iran, hence it will deploy any means so as to harness that power.

Addressing the military and the law and order forces, he emphasized the need to observe rules and regulations, maintain unity and solidarity, and he called on them to heed the command structure. He said: The army must defend its Islamic system, with political and ideological awareness and perception. [pasage omitted]

Minister Urges Cooperation on Oil, Gulf Security

LD1910130590 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 19 Oct 90

[Text] The oil minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran referred to the maintenance of stability and political security in the Persian Gulf area by the countries of the region as a means of securing the export of oil from the Persian Gulf region. He further called for the departure of military forces from the region.

We draw your attention to a report on this subject:

[Begin unidentified reporter recording] In a message addressing an important international economic conference, Gholam Reza Aqazadeh announced that the export of oil to the world from the Persian Gulf region will be possible when security governs the area.

The message of the oil minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran was read in his absence to the International Conference on Petroleum and Money, in London. The message stresses that, if the policy for the rapid decrease in the price of oil was not adopted by the industrialized countries during the past decade, the world would not be a witness to the Persian Gulf crisis today.

Gholam Reza Aqazadeh also called for cooperation between the producers and the consumers of oil and said: The recent developments in the oil market have proved that dialogue between the two sides of the producers and consumers of oil must begin as soon as possible. Otherwise, future developments will impose such dialogue and cooperation on the two sides.

The oil minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran expounded on the current situation in the oil market and the problems arising from that and said: Instead of having anti-OPEC policies, the IAE should take steps to organize a conference with the OPEC member states. Due to the lack of interest from the industrialized countries, to date no practical mechanism has been found to resolve existing problems about oil with the oil producing countries. Many golden opportunities have been lost.

In conclusion, the oil minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran stressed that such cooperation will help to resolve existing difficulties concerning this important strategic commodity through bilateral and multilateral negotiations between all the parties involved in the issue of oil. [end recording]

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Receives Turkish Envoy

TA2110151090 Ankara ANATOLIA in English 1435 GMT 21 Oct 90

[Text] Tehran (A.A)—An envoy of President Turgut Ozal on Sunday conveyed a verbal message by Ozal on developments on the Gulf crisis to Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

Presidential secretary Nabi Sensoy told A.A. after being received by Hashemi-Rafsanjani that international developments, mainly the Gulf crisis, were discussed at the meeting. Turkey and Iran had similar stands about the crisis, Sensoy said, adding he would convey a reply message from Hashemi-Rafsanjani to Ozal.

Demonstrations Banned After Islamic Dress Clash

NC1910071190 Paris AFP in English 1537 GMT 18 Oct 90

[Text] Tehran, Oct 18 (AFP)—Iran on Thursday announced a ban of unauthorised demonstrations after scuffles here earlier this week between security forces and militants protesting over women who fail to adhere to Islamic dress code.

The commander-in-chief of the urban militias, Mokhtar Kalantari, said in a statement published by the evening newspaper KEYHAN that security forces would deal with unauthorised demonstrations. He did not elaborate. But Mr. Kalantari said that protesters who secured the government's permission for their demonstrations would be "protected by the security forces and urban militias."

The remarks followed scuffles this week in Teheran between Islamic militants protesting against women who failed to respect the strict Islamic dress code. Mr. Kalantari said that in one incident, protesters entered a drug store and broke the shop's windows, triggering a clash with security forces. Under the dress code, women must cover their heads with scarves, wear opaque stockings or hose and calf-length dresses and refrain from wearing make-up or jewelry. Only neutral colors, preferably gray or black, are encouraged.

Editorial Comments on Jerusalem Shootings, 'Awn

LD2110095190 Tehran IRNA in English 0811 GMT 21 Oct 90

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 21, IRNA—The morning daily 'ABRAR' in its editorial Sunday wrote that the Zionist October 8 massacre of the Palestinians in Aqsa Mosque "The Black Monday", is part of the Persian Gulf crisis and the developments in Lebanon. The rift in the Arab world has furnished the U.S. administration and the Zionist regime with an opportunity to exploit the situation and speed up their plots.

Bringing down of Michel 'Awn, a concession by the West to the Arabs is seen by Middle East diplomatic sources as the beginning of fresh U.S. and Zionist moves because if downfall of 'Awn is aimed at restoring order and calm in Lebanon, it will necessitate disarming of the Muslim Lebanese forces. This initiative which means removal of potential and actual threat of these forces on the Zionist regime, will put Israel in Peace, said the paper.

At the meantime any clash between Syria and Israel is unlikely and this will also give Israel peace of mind and a freedom to focus only on confronting the Palestinians within the occupied territories. The daily continued that

the Zionist strategy is to contain and reduce the fronts of confrontation, a strategy which started with the Camp David accord and has now gained greater momentum.

According to ABRAR the only option left to the Palestinians is to intensify the intifada throughout the occupied territories. "More than anytime in the 42-year long occupation of Palestine, people of the land are in need of help of the Muslims." ABRAR concluded by saying that Iran as the hope of the world Muslims can campaign to rally support of all Muslim militant forces for the Palestinians.

Paper Blames U.S. 'Double Standard' for Crisis

LD2110094190 Tehran IRNA in English 0827 GMT 21 Oct 90

[Text] Tehran, Oct 21, IRNA—A morning daily Sunday blamed the U.S. for its double standard towards the Middle East problems and the Persian Gulf crisis. The English-language 'KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL' commented that the record of U.S. dealings in the region showed examples of contradictory approaches in which balanced policies had been discarded in favour of those with immediate results.

"For example, what the U.S. had advocated in relation to Israel is exactly the opposite of what it has in relation to the Arabs and the Palestinians in particular," wrote the article. It pointed to President Bush's speech to a Republican Party fund-raising rally in Iowa this week in which he said, "You cannot bully your neighbor, you cannot wipe him out...Iraqi aggression will not be allowed to stand. Saddam Husayn will be held accountable."

But, it argued, the same Iraq which pounded Iran for almost a decade and annihilated southern part of it, not only was never questioned about it acts but on the contrary and on many occasions was encouraged to carry on with its aggressions.

"The same unjust criteria apply to the Palestinian people, they are abused, degraded, killed in their own country by ruthless Israeli soldiers," noted the daily. It concluded by saying, "as long as the U.S. and its allies rely on expediency and realization of their own selfish interests they will not be credible and popular and their polices, even when balanced, would be shrouded with skepticism".

Paper Urges Muslims To Expel Westerners

LD2210091190 Tehran IRNA in English 0817 GMT 22 Oct

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 22, IRNA—The Morning daily 'JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI' Monday editorialized on escalated worldwide protests against presence of the U.S. and NATO forces in the Persian Gulf and U.S. militarism. Along with demonstrations against U.S. military intervention in the Persian Gulf in at least 20 American cities, France and Italy, similar protests have been staged in Islamic countries against the unabashed Western military expedition and their presence in the heartland of Muslims, the holy shrines.

Although protests in Western countries and those in Islamic states are prompted by different motives, the truth is that they are totally against "this aggressive military expedition and the ill-fated domination seeking move," wrote the daily.

The demonstrations in the West do not seem to have surprised the Western politicians. The politicians rather welcome, encourage and even give green light to such protests as long as they justify the U.S. reluctance to launch military operations against Iraq. "This is exactly what the ruling administrations in the West need under the present conditions," continued the editorial.

It was clear from the start that the Western military expedition was not directed on Iraq and in reaction to the Iraqi occupation of the neighbouring Kuwait, rather it was a far-reaching aggression. "As the days go by the real objectives of West behind this game are becoming clearer."

"This displays the true nature of reactionary Arabs and the degree of their submission and proves that they have paved the way for this outrageous disgrace on Islamic world." The editorial said that Muslim nations must not be encouraged by the protests in West hoping that they may end the occupation of the holy lands. Protests in West are against war and Westerners will not be bothered if the U.S. and NATO forces remain in the Persian Gulf region for decades, as long as no war erupts.

Muslim nations must rather shoulder their responsibilities in expelling the occupiers from the holy lands and punishing those who disrespect sanctity of the holy lands. Otherwise they will have to carry the burden of this shame—U.S. domination on the holy lands, for ever, concluded the editorial.

Editorial Views Cooperation With Britain

NC1210171290 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 3 Oct 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Looking to the Future, Remembering the Past"]

[Text] If indeed the world is entering a new era, then it may well be symbolized by cooperation between countries in helping to keep peace on earth.

On Thursday, September 27, 1990, the Islamic Republic of Iran formally announced the official resumption of diplomatic ties with Britain. The political moves in Tehran and London came almost eighteen months after the Islamic Republic decided to sever relations with England in the wake of the Thatcher government's support for the apostate Salman Rushdie, author of the blasphemous novel, "The Satanic Verses". The rapprochement also comes at a time when fears are mounting within England about the debilitating effects of the Persian Gulf crisis on the British economy.

In effect, the resumption of ties between Iran and Britain is a victory for the Islamic Revolution and there is no

doubt that Whitehall has learned its lesson vis-a-vis conducting business with an authentic Islamic and revolutionary country such as Iran. Just a few months after Britain's blunder (support of the Foreign Office for Rushdie under the pretext of freedom of speech) officials in London have been adopting a cautious attitude, culminating in Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd's admission that "the blasphemous novel was deeply offensive of the Islamic faith" and expression of Britain's "greatest respect for Islam." This conciliatory gesture paved the way for Tehran to reconsider its position and to agree to hold several rounds of talks with British officials at the United Nations headquarters n New York.

No man is an island. Iran realizes that isolation is detrimental to the political, cultural and economic well-being of a nation. To this end, the Islamic Republic aspires to base its relations with other countries on mutual respect, goodwill and non-intervention in each other's affairs. The Islamic government has also made known that post-war Iran seeks normal ties with the world community.

As regards Britain, it will be wise for Iran to remember past historical experiences. Indeed, many Iranians are of the opinion that ties with Britain are a liability, not an asset. The English-Persian annals contain a nasty catalogue of British crimes against Islam and the Muslim people of Iran. It is a known fact that British colonialist policies were solely aimed at keeping Iran in a state of perpetual stagnation. Likewise, London's intimate alliance with the United States, as well as its collusion with the Zionist regime, are points worth pondering in conducting future political and economic arrangements with England.

Britain needs Iran very badly for a number of reasons: political, geographical and economic. Already, fears are mounting within the country about the detrimental effects of Saddam Husayn's invasion of Kuwait on the British economy. For this reason alone, London must tread cautiously, lest the occupant of 10th Downing Street finds herself once again faced with an Iranian dilemma.

The breakthrough in Iran-British ties will see the raising of the flag over the British Embassy in Tehran. For the people of Iran, however the Union Jack will serve as a stark reminder of British colonialism and imperialism and the atrocities they committed against the Muslims in the region.

Editorial Discusses Developing EEC Relations

NC1210122090 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 1 Oct 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Finally Iran's Importance Being Realized"]

[Text] One of the most busiest foreign ministers at the UN General Assembly session is Iran's Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati, according to the news reports coming from the UN headquarters.

One of the most important meetings was with the foreign ministers of Ireland, Italy and Luxemburg, who technically are called Troika in the European Community term.

Ireland had recently handed over the chairmanship of the EEC to Italy and future chairman is Luxemburg. The previous, present and future chairmen of the EEC are responsible for the implementation of the policy of the European Community which has 12 members.

The EEC had blocked the way of high-level meetings between Iran and its members last year following the controversy triggered by the Indian-born author of the "The Satanic Verses' which insulted Islam and finally the Leader and Founder of the Islamic Revolution and the Islamic Republic of Iran, the late Imam Khomeyni issued a religious decree for the execution of the apostate writer.

The late Imam did what was necessary according to Islam. In the secular world and in nonreligious society, it is really difficult for the peoples and governments there to digest such idea of respecting the religious values o f others. Hence, the EEC countries called their ambassadors back from Iran and Tehran paid them in the same coin.

Gradually the temperature of arrogance of the EEC countries came down and they started sending their ambassadors back. But the relations between Iran and the EEC countries, collectively remained in cold storage and the Persian Gulf crisis fell down on the earth like an atom bomb and this region once more attracted the attention of people across the globe, especially from the West.

This time they saw a different picture of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Not because the policy of the Islamic Republic had changed but because the West put down their color glasses and found Iran in its real shape.

It is not the time to go into details of this aspect. What we are saying is that the West has realized the importance of the Islamic Republic of Iran and started renewing and reviewing their relations with the most important country in the region.

That was the time when the ball was in the court of Iran and it could have taken revenge from the world and the regional countries, who were fanning the flames of the oven of the Iraqi war machinery. But Iran believes in peace, it wants cooperation with all the regional, Muslim and those countries which are not hostile against the Islamic Revolution and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The EEC move is welcomed and its members along with all other countries should understand that the regional dispute can never be solved without the active cooperation of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The US-led unprecedented war machinery can do nothing but deteriorate the situation in the Persian Gulf.

In the meantime, we urge our government to exert and use more influence it has in its store so that peace, prosperity along with democracy may prevail in the region without the least assistance from the outside.

TIMES Questions Syrian Actions in Gulf

PM1210090190 Tehran KEYHAN HAVAI in Persian 26 Sep 90 p 8

[Editorial: "How one becomes the darling of the Westerners."]

[Text] The English language TEHRAN TIMES newspaper, which is very popular in Western circles has once again made a huge gaffe, but this time it has done so knowingly and on purpose.

This newspaper is an editorial on Saturday 15 September said: "The United States, in its military intervention in the region has not yet crossed the red line and the invitation to holy war which was issued by Ayatollah Khamene'i will only become necessary if the U.S. government decides to gain control over the wealth of the Muslims in the region." The editorial by the TEHRAN TIMES is an introduction to an interview this newspaper conducted on 17 September with the Syrian ambassador to Tehran. These two facts themselves show that the TEHRAN TIMES had no aim other than to sullify the policies and the principles of the Islamic Republic.

One must ask the TEHRAN TIMES, keeping in mind the comments made by officials in Washington, have the U.S. goals for their widespread presence in the region not been clarified? Is this fact in itself not against the interests of the Muslims? Is it not the case that paying for the U.S. troop presence to the tune of $15 million per day by the reactionary rulers is coming from the wealth of the Muslims? Is it not the case that the wild presence of U.S. troops in places holy to the Muslims is aggression against the boundaries of Muslims?

This newspaper finishes its task with the interview with the Syrian ambassador and makes it sound as if Iran, under conditions where the initiative is completely in the hands of the United States, plans to send troops to Saudi Arabia. Is this not against the principles of the Islamic Republic and the remarks of the leader of the revolution?

Please read this portion of TEHRAN TIMES' interview with the Syrian ambassador: "Al-Hasan the Syrian ambassador to Tehran answered a question and said: Yes, the Iranian troops, which have long experience in military technology could help in the defense of the holy sites of Islam. He added: But such a move would have to be done through the Arab League and Syria will support this with all its power. He continued: Naturally when we suport the deployment of troops from Bangladesh and Pakistan, there is no reason why we should not support Iranian troops which would be sent to defend the holy sites of Islam."

It is also proper to confront the Syrian ambassador who despite his presence here, which means he should know about Iran's policies, makes remarks such as those. Although one must say that the ambassador, whose country's troops' presence in Saudi Arabia alongside the Americans is itself suspicious, worthy of questioning and a seal of approval for the region's invasion by Washington, wants to sullify Iran's image in this manner.

But we want to address the TEHRAN TIMES which wanted to escape the consequences by presenting the interview without quoting the question posed to the Syrian ambassador. Despite this, the answer shows that the TEHRAN TIMES posed the question in such a way so as to make sure it got this answer. The Syrian ambassador talks about a "proposal" and says: Syria will back such a proposal (meaning the presence of Iranian troops in Saudi Arabia) with all its might. TEHRAN TIMES, whatever its ideology or methods, should not be allowed to sullify the policy or the principles of the Islamic Republic. Sensitivity over this publication is because unfortunately in the West it is said to "represent the views of the Iranian Foreign Ministry." In this manner this newspaper can become the darling of the Westerners but it should not be allowed to trample on the Islamic Republic's policies or principles so much so that Western circles would link the recent trip by Hafiz al-Asad with the deployment of Iranian troops in Saudi Arabia. The Syrian ambassador in his interview with the TEHRAN TIMES admitted: Syria has symbalically sent 5,000 troops to Saudi Arabia. These symbolic trops, what mission could they have other than to put a seal of approval on U.S. actions in the region—especially in a sea of American troops in Saudi Arabia?

Mentioning the presence of Iranian troops in Saudi Arabia by the TEHRAN TIMES should be examined with suspicion.

Also, the Syrian officials should not undertake such methods in order to destroy the effects of their wrong actions in the region, which have darkened their image. In general the Iranian people see the latest moves from Damascus to be more a result of influence from the reactionaries and from the West. If it was just a case of hostility toward Baghdad, why was it that during the 8 years of Iraq's attacks against Iran, we did not see diplomatic activity from Damascus to this extent?

Commentary Previews Tudeh Party Congress

LD1110203690 (Clandestine) Radio of the Iranian Toilers in Persian 0230 GMT 10 Oct 90

[Commentary from issue no 321 of NAMEH-YE MARDOM, organ of the Tudeh Party]

[Text] The Tudeh Party of Iran is preparing for the convening of its Third Congress. Both the importance and extensive nature of the topics that have been included in the agenda of the congress, as well as the passage of more than four decades since the convening of the Second Congress of the Party, apart from national conferences, will make this Congress a very important event in the history of the life of the party.

One should say openly that a new political thinking, and a new outlook and understanding regarding party life will constitute a successful outcome to the workings of

the congress under the [present] difficult conditions for the political struggles of the party. There is no doubt that the members and supporters of the party have diverse and often contradictory expectations from this congress. This fact has been made quite manifest in the remarks which have been made both before the plenum which was held in Farvardin [month starting 21 March 1990] or after it about the necessity of holding the congress. Those taking part in the Farvardin plenum expressed different viewpoints about the methods of the preparations and the convening of the congress. Some of the party members give prominence to the organizational duties of the congress and describe as its main duty the reform of the structure of leadership and the formulation of the new constitution of the party. Another group regards theoretical issues and the formulation of a new program as having priority over other issues. Yet another group gives priority to political duties in the agenda of the congress.

It is clear that the party regards restructuring in all these fields as the main duty of the congress. There are also different views regarding the time of the convening of the congress. Some party members believe that the speed of change is at such a [fast] pace that if the congress is not convened as soon as possible, its usefulness could be questioned. There is also another view that the congress is not merely a get-together. If the congress wishes to take a real step toward the reconstruction of the party in all aspects of its political and organizational life, it cannot be held without sufficient preparation.

From these different viewpoints one can conclude that the members and supporters of the party believe in the necessity of the convening of this congress from different angles. There are also those comrades who regard the nonimplementation of all their expectations as being tantamount to the failure of the congress. There is also one common aspect in all these different viewpoints, namely that the goal of the convening of this congress is a step toward the reconstruction of the party. All accept that the congress should help the reconstruction of the party and should mobilize it for the continuation of a social struggle in the extraordinarily difficult and changing conditions of Iran and the world.

Therefore, it is quite clear that the [convening of the] congress is not an end in itself; but that it is a means for bringing about the reconstruction of the party and the intensification of struggle in the path of its near and distant goals. Will we be able to hold such a congress in a successful manner? In our view, the answer to this question lies to a great extent in the preparations made for the convening of the congress. These preparations should include all the Tudeh strugglers in the front lines of struggle inside the country, as well as its members and supporters abroad. The diversity of views and tendencies demands that the congress should be convened in the most democratic way possible. The condition for its democratic nature also lies in the active and responsible participation of all the members and supporters in the pre-congress stages, as well as in the election of the delegates.

In this context, one should not impose any prejudgement in the preparation of the congress. Some comrades ask what guarantee there is for the congress being democratic. In our view, one should first ask this question: Which person and which group can and should and is entitled to guarantee the democratic nature of the congress? The internal democratization of the party is something which depends on all the members, and it can only come about as the result of the supervision and control of all the members.

Therefore, one should adopt means and mechanisms which would ensure the supervision and control of the party members in connection with the democratic preparations made for the congress. The Farvardin plenum described the most important means in this context to be open and free discussion in party cells, in the special publications which are devoted to the preparation of the congress and also in holding numerous open regional conferences for units outside the country.

The plenum has turned to the members and supporters of the party and has invited all of them, whether those who are in active contact with the party, as well as those comrades who as an act of protest or other reasons are not in active contact with it, to take part in those conferences and to assist in the preparation of the congress. The members of the Central Committee and the executive board will also take part in those meetings. What will be discussed and debated in those meetings will be the definition of a suitable context for the activities of the party under the present conditions, expression of views regarding the program, constitution, political policies, and other issues that are on the agenda of the congress. The special publication devoted to the program of the congress will also be placed in the service of such a process. Any other mechanism which will be necessary for the further democratization and comprehensiveness of the congress may also be proposed and discussed. In this way, the party members outside the country after these extensive consultations will elect party delegates. It is natural that the participation of the active party cells inside the country in the congress should be made possible through means which are appropriate to the conditions of their activities.

Another issue which should be taken into consideration is the link between the preparations made for the congress and the issue of the unity and solidarity of the party. There is no doubt that the reconstruction of the party: namely, the creative review of the intellectual, political, and organizational bases of the party and the introduction of new yardsticks in the life of the party should all be in the service of strengthening the unity of the party and its greater effectiveness in its political and social struggle.

In our view, we should also pay attention to another factor in preparing for the congress. It is clear that the general crisis faced by the leftist movements, including our party, has several root causes. Greater changes in the Soviet Union and Western Europe and fundamental changes in ideological and political values of leftist movements, as well as the consequences of attacks made on the party [by the Iranian regime], and the mistakes, shortcomings and organizational problems of recent years have given rise to numerous differences of opinion and stances among the members and supporters of the party and in its various leadership cadres and organizations.

Now the congress should be able to take serious steps toward the creation of understanding and harmony among all the comrades, based on the future ideological and political principles of the party. It is clear that this does not mean that one should not accept diversity of opinions in the party. Theoretical pluralism and the complete safeguarding of the rights of the minority are among the basic principles of the reconstruction of the party. However, the point at issue is the strengthening of the unity and solidarity of the party in the fields of political and social struggles; namely, the main principles upon which each Tudeh member bases its relations with the party. In other words, differences of opinion should not lead to schisms and splitting from the party. Let us not forget that the third congress should be able to reconstruct the party and should provide for the unity of determination, action and the greater effectiveness of its political struggles inside and outside the country. Forward with firm and measured steps toward the preparation of such a congress. [sentence as heard]

Commentary Views Libyan Political Developments

NC1010090190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0450 GMT 10 Oct 90

[Commentary prepared by the Central News Unit Research Group]

[Excerpts] In the name of God. The Libyan parliament has replaced the country's foreign minister, prime minister, and the ministers of petroleum, justice, and information. [passage omitted] In more than a year, developments have taken place in Libya's foreign policy. The outcome of these developments was Libya's emergence from political isolation, which had traditionally limited that country's regional and international relations. [passage omitted]

The impact of the Persian Gulf crisis on Arab countries, the various positions that were taken, and the various solutions that were put forth by the Arab governments also led to developments in these countries' foreign policies. Undoubtedly, these developments also had repercussions on their domestic situations. The Persian Gulf crisis, therefore, was able to become an element for changes in policy inside and outside the borders of Arab countries and to create the need for new policies.

Undoubtedly, these developments were also influenced by the new conditions in the international situation—conditions which upset the world's traditional political geography and which are moving on a new basis and toward new objectives. In view of these new conditions, the developments in Libya were foreseeable.

Next to these elements, there are other elements—such as the wish to emerge from political isolation, efforts to improve relations with Europe's industrial countries, a more active role in relation with Arab-Islamic countries, as well as Libya's role as one of the oil-producing countries in view of the existing conditions in the oil market—which led to the changes in Libya's foreign and, up to an extent, domestic policies. At any rate, the emergence of basic changes in Libya's domestic and foreign policies is a definite fact. Therefore we should expect more manifestations and signs of new principles in Libya's foreign diplomacy and domestic policy.

Nepal & Bhutan

Opposition To 'Struggle' if Constitution Delayed

BK2010010290 Hong Kong AFP in English 1933 GMT 19 Oct 90

[Text] Kathmandu, Oct 19 (AFP)—Prime Minister Krishna Prasad Bhattarai said Friday there would be no major changes to Nepal's draft constitution while other national leaders called for its early promulgation. Mr. Bhattarai said there would be no change in the "fundamentals of the constitution such as the constitutional monarchy, multi-party system, fundamental rights, and ... full-fledged human rights."

Speaking at a rally of some 20,000 people organised by the Nepal Basha Manka Khala (NBMK) to mark the indigenous Newar people's new year, the prime minister said "we were fighting for democracy from outside the government but now we are doing so from within." King Birendra agreed to end the 30-year partyless Panchayat system in April after violent pro-democracy demonstrations, setting up an interim government charged with drawing up a constitution and holding elections next year.

At the same meeting, supreme leader of the formerly banned Nepali Congress Ganesh Man Singh demanded that the constitution be promulgated by Wednesday. Warning that "if we cannot work cautiously in the present transition period, it will not produce good results," Mr. Singh told the crowd that the main issue of the day was "how soon and when the constitution will come. "For this reason we should not get entangled in trivial matters ... Minor drawbacks in the constitution can be rectified even after the installation of an elected government," he added.

Mr. Bhattarai met the king Wednesday for a fifth round of talks on the constitution but was unable to give a date for its promulgation. Minister for Industry and Commerce Sahana Pradhan said Nepal stood on "the

threshold of democracy" thanks to the united efforts of the Nepali Congress and the United Left Front (ULF), a coalition of leftwing parties.

She said this unity should be maintained, echoing Mr. Singh's point that trivial issues should not hold up the constitution. "The coming constitution should not be in the interest of one individual or family," she said, adding: "we will again launch a struggle if the constitution is not in conformity with the popular will."

Observers said Mrs. Pradhan was apparently referring to the king and his family. NBMK Chairman Padma Ratna Tuladhar said the ULF and the Nepali Congress should launch a struggle if the promulgation of the constitution was delayed. "We are all prepared to take part in such a struggle if it is led by the supreme leader Ganesh Man Singh," Mr. Tuladhar added.

Congress Urges King To Announce Constitution

BK2210010890 Hong Kong AFP in English 1802 GMT 21 Oct 90

[Text] Kathmandu, Oct 21 (AFP)—The general secretary of the Nepali Congress Sunday urged King Birendra to promulgate the country's draft constitution without further delay to avoid uncertainty and instability. In a statement Girija Prasad Koirala said "the delay in promulgation of the new constitution has been helping unscrupulous anti-people and anti-democratic reactionaries to create a gap between the people and the crown."

Mr. Koirala, recalling the pro-democracy protests from February to April which led to the setting up of an interim government to draw up a constitution and hold elections, said they had allowed the king and people to come closer together. President of the National Democratic Party, Surya Bahadur Thapa, also urged King Birendra to promulgate the constitution in a separate statement.

Prime Minister Krishna Prasad Bhattarai met King Birendra Wednesday for a fifth round of talks on the constitution but was unable to announce a date for its promulgation.

Premier Threatens To Resign Over Constitution

BK2210085790 Hong Kong AFP in English 0830 GMT 22 Oct 90

[By Kedar Man Singh]

[Text] Kathmandu, Oct 22 (AFP)—Prime Minister Krishna Prasad Bhattarai has threatened to resign if the ongoing constitutional crisis in Nepal is not resolved soon, a highly placed source here said Monday. Mr. Bhattarai's warning came in response to amendments made by the royal palace to the country's new draft constitution and sent to the Council of Ministers—the interim government led by Mr. Bhattarai—for approval.

After receiving the latest draft, which would allow the king to retain "sovereign authority and emergency powers," Mr. Bhattarai sent a message to King Birendra saying he could not guarantee its approval by the council, the source said. Mr. Bhattarai told the king's principal secretary Sunday that he would prefer to be relieved of his office than compromise his 50 years in politics by accepting the undemocratic constitution, the source said.

Mr. Bhattarai will not make any final decision until after a meeting Monday of the Council of Ministers to discuss the constitutional crisis, the source said. The latest draft prepared by the royal palace attempts to retain all executive, legislative and judicial power for the monarchy, as well as certain emergency powers.

Under the original draft prepared by the Constitution Recommendation Commission (CRC), the king was made only the head of state to reign but not to rule. In every respect the king would have to follow the advice of the Council of Ministers. The United Left Front (ULF), an important partner of the present coalition government, has criticised Mr. Bhattarai's threat, saying he could not resign as he was the representative of those who sacrificed their lives in the violent pro-democracy demonstrations between February and April.

Analysts here said the latest draft was an attempt by palace forces to challenge the interim coalition which is calling for a constitutional monarchy and a multi-party system of government. "This is an attempt to try the strength of the national political party leaders and their activists which may once again cause bloodshed in the country," one analyst said.

A highly placed source close to the prime minister said the latest draft had proposed the setting up of a state council standing committee, to serve as a royal advisory body instead of the Council of Ministers. The original CRC draft stated: "The king has introduced the political changes in the country and the new constitution is being implimented following the popular movement and as per the aspirations of the people."

The ammended draft, however, drops the words "popular movement" and states that the political changes were introduced by the "grace of the crown and as per the expectation of the people", the source said. The three-member cabinet sub-committee, which earlier this month modified the original draft of the constitution prepared by the CRC, rejected outright Sunday the latest draft submitted by the royal palace, the source said.

Meanwhile, former Prime Minister Surya Bahadur Thapa, who now heads the National Democratic Party comprising liberal activists of the old partyless panchayat system, demanded in a written statement Monday the immediate promulgation of the constitution by the king. "All Nepalese who are committed to democracy have noted with anguish the new conflicts that have surfaced with regards to the promulgation of a new constitution," he said.

"It is all the more painful that these unfortunate developments are taking place when we have reached the threshold in our quest for a durable democratic policy in the country," Mr. Thapa said. Mr. Thapa warned that the current controversies surrounding the new constitution could only have a "negative" affect with regards the future running of the country. "A constitutional arrangement drawing its strength from negativism will only foster a relationship of mistrust among the crown, executive, legislature and judiciary," Mr. Thapa said.

Pakistan

Jatoi Confident of Favorable Verdict in Elections

BK1910100990 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 19 Oct 90

[Text] Prime Minister Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi has expressed confidence that the people will give their verdict in his favor during the coming elections. Talking to newsmen in Islamabad before his departure for Karachi yesterday evening, the prime minister said that the elections would definitely be held on the scheduled date and that there should be no doubts about it. He said all the arrangements have been made for holding elections on 24 and 27 October.

In reply to a question, Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi said the people know who caused the suspension of U.S. aid to Pakistan and that they have now been fully exposed. He said political differences should not be carried to such an extent that they harm the country. The prime minister said besides the election manifesto, the people also keep in mind the candidate's personality and are fully aware of who was involved in corruption and plundering of national wealth, and who has deprived people of their rights.

Replying to another question, the prime minister said the tribunals handling the process of accountability are high-level courts and are making their decisions independently. So far as we are concerned, the process of accountability will continue, he observed. Answering yet another question, the prime minister said there is no harm in using some funds for the development of backward areas or constituencies which remained neglected during the past two years.

Says Subversion Plot Discovered

BK2010162690 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 20 Oct 90

[Excerpt] Addressing a public meeting in Nawabshah District today, Prime Minister Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi said that the government has unearthed a plot aimed at carrying out large-scale destruction, violence, and killing throughout the country. He said that a group of trained terrorists has been arrested and they will be shown on television within a few days. The prime minister criticized the performance of former Pakistan People's Party [PPP] government and said that a lot of people were killed and incidents of robbery, kidnapping and violence increased during the PPP regime. They robbed the national coffer and misused government funds and did nothing for the welfare of poor people. The prime minister said that the former PPP government only used the Sindh card and did nothing for Sindh Province. [passage omitted]

Denounces 'Atrocities' in Kashmir

BK2010164490 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 20 Oct 90

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, has appealed to the world community to take notice of continued atrocities being perpetrated on the people of occupied Kashmir and should initiate collective action to deter India from the reign of terror let loose by it in the territory. In a statement today, the prime minister pointed out that these atrocities have surpassed the known records of killing, looting, and torture committed by any country forcibly occupying a territory. He said news reports are full of horrible tales of killing of innocent people whose only crime is that they are struggling for the freedom of their homeland. Under a well-thought-out plan, thousands of houses are being burnt to ashes and this was being used as an atrocious tool to curb the freedom struggle of Kashmiri people. The prime minister expressed his belief that the sacrifices being offered by the Kashmiri people will not go waste and the struggle cannot be suppressed by inhuman killing by the Indian forces.

Mr. Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi said India very well knows that her present policy about Kashmir could never be successful but could become instrumental in disturbing peace and solidarity of the whole region. Pakistan has always supported the just struggle of Kashmiri brethren and will continue to support it. The prime minister again declared that the people and the government of Pakistan condemn the atrocities being committed against Kashmiri people and strongly demand that Indian forces should be pulled out of occupied Kashmir. India should honor its international commitment for peaceful solution of Kashmir problem.

PPP Said Seeking U.S. Help To Regain Power

BK2010105690 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 20 Oct 90

[Text] Syeda Abida Hussain, federal information and broadcasting minister, has criticized the Pakistan People's Party [PPP] saying that it is addressing the United States to restore its power instead of seeking a mandate from the people of the country in its favor. Addressing public meetings at different places in Jhang District yesterday, she alleged that the PPP is doing everything to regain power, including seeking the help of American Jews. She told the electorates that the Islamic Democratic Alliance will do its best to solve their problems after coming to power.

Interior Minister Mir Zahid Sarfaraz has said that the future of the country will be decided by the mandate of the people of the country itself and not by external pressure. Addressing a public meeting at Fazalabad, he said that we will not yield to any external pressure and will continue to work for the country's solidarity and prosperity.

Army Spokesman Briefs on Role During Elections

BK2110171590 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1600 GMT 21 Oct 90

[Text] The Army will provide backup support in the maintenance of law and order during the election process within the framework as laid down by the Election Commission. Briefing newsmen on security arrangements made, an Army spokesman in Karachi said today that the pre- and post-election role entrusted to the Army has been to maintain law and order when requisitioned by the civil administration and to provide necessary security for transportation of election material. He said that according to reports terrorists and antistate elements might launch a wave of killings, ethnic riots, and destruction of government and private property before and after the election period. The spokesman told newsmen that the government has decided to take all preventive measures during the pre- and post-election period with the help of the police and the Army.

Election Campaign Begins; Army Deploys in Sindh

BK2210034790 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 22 Oct 90

[Text] In Pakistan, campaigning for Wednesday's general elections ends today. Over 1,400 candidates are in the fray for 207 National Assembly seats. Army troops and paramilitary forces are being deployed on an unprecednted scale throughout the country on the day of polling. For the first time a 40-member international observers team will be in Pakistan to monitor the polls. Over 35,000 army troops have been deployed in the entire province of Sindh to maintain peace during the general elections. An army spokesman while briefing newsmen in Karachi yesterday disclosed that a major terrorist plot has been unearthed aimed at creating widespread ethnic violence and assassination of senior political leaders.

Arrangements Completed for 24, 27 Oct Elections

BK2210003190 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1600 GMT 21 Oct 90

[Text] The Election Commission has completed all arrangements for holding free and fair elections to the national and provincial assemblies in a peaceful manner on next Wednesday and Saturday [24 and 27 October] and for the announcement of results. The chief election commissioner, Mr. Justice Naimuddin, told a news conference in Islamabad today that provisional results will only be announced by the Election Commission in Islamabad for which necessary machinery has been streamlined. District returning officers will send results to the provincial election commission which would immediately pass them on to the Election Commission in Islamabad. Mr. Justice Naimuddin made it clear that no executive authority, however high, is involved in the process of election results. Elections are being held under the Representation of Peoples Act, 1976.

In reply to a question, the chief election commissioner said 1,331 candidates are in the fray for National Assembly's 205 out of 207 Muslim seats. Two have already returned unopposed from FATA [Federally Administered Tribal Areas]. There are 82 candidates for 10 non-Muslim seats. Polling will be held from 0800 to 1700 without any break. Counting of votes will begin immediately after the polling is over in the presence of candidates or their agents at each polling station.

Government Rejects Loan Repayment to U.S.

BK2110062590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 21 Oct 90

[Text] The 40-member delegation of international observers have arrived in Islamabad to monitor Pakistan's general elections scheduled to be held on Wednesday next. Our Islamabad correspondent Suresh Chopra reports that the team consists of political leaders and election experts drawn from 17 countries.

In another development, the interior minister of the Pakistani caretaker government, Mia Zahid Sarfraz, has said that his country will not return the loans taken from the United States in retaliation to the stoppage of military and economic aid by the Bush Administration. He was speaking at a public meeting in Nizamabad yesterday.

Visiting Election Observers Meet Sindh Governor

BK2110122590 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 21 Oct 90

[Text] A 16-member nongovernmental mission from four SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] countries, currently visiting Sindh to monitor the general elections, called on the governor, Mr. Mahmud A. Haroon, in Karachi today.

Talking to them, the governor reiterated the government's determination for holding elections in a free, fair, and impartial manner. He said elaborate arrangements have been made to maintain law and order. The leader of the mission, Mr. Kanakaratne, thanked the governor for the hospitality and cooperation accorded to them.

Bhutto Reviews Priorities, Party Manifesto

BK2210041090 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 22 Oct 90

[Text] Addressing a public meeting in Faysalabad last night, the co-chairperson of the Pakistan People's Party, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, said that if she is returned to power her party will strengthen Pakistan, provide justice at low

cost to the people, solve the unemployment problem, and create an atmosphere that is free of fear by getting rid of social evils.

On foreign policy, she said the Afghanistan problem will be solved within six months and the cause of Kashmir and Palestine will be supported. Earlier, addressing another public meeting at Sherkot, Ms. Benazir Bhutto said that her party will continue to work for the people's well-being. She told a public meeting at Godia that her party promoted industrial development in the country to solve the unemployment problem.

The secretary general of the People's Democratic Alliance [comprising the Pakistan People's Party], Mr. Khurshid Mahmud Kasuri, has said that the alliance favors increasing the powers of the prime minister so that the president cannot dissolve assemblies without reason. He was describing the main points of the manifesto of the People's Democratic Alliance in an interview broadcast over radio and television last night. The manifesto says that the imposition of state of emergency and abrogation of basic rights can be challenged in courts. The People's Democratic Alliance favors giving autonomy to the provinces so that they can solve their own problems. Answering a question, the secretary general of the People's Democratic Alliance, said there is no difference of opinion about supremacy of Islam.

Special Court Orders Bhutto To Appear 4 Nov

BK2110142790 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 21 Oct 90

[Text] In Lahore today, the special court comprising Justice Mohammad Amir Malik has issued notice to Former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto to appear personally before the court on 4 November in connection with the presidential reference filed against her for misuse of People's Service Funds.

Examines Charges on Aircraft Use

BK2110170990 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 21 Oct 90

[Text] The special court comprising Mr. Justice Mohammad Amir Malik in Lahore today issued notice to the former prime minister, Benazir Bhutto Sahiba to appear in person before the court on the 4th of next month on the presidential reference against her regarding misuse of People's Service Fund.

The court also conducted scrutiny of another presidential reference against her regarding misuse of the PAF [Pakistan Air Force] and the PIA [Pakistan International Airlines] aircraft, including C-140, Boeing, and Fokker planes for transporting MNA's [Members of National Assembly] and ministers in an unauthorized manner.

Former Ministers Ordered To Appear in Courts

Commerce Minister Called

BK2110163790 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 21 Oct 90

[Text] The special tribunal comprising Justice Munirul Sheikh issued notice to Former Federal Minister for Commerce Syed Faisal Saleh Hayat to appear before the tribunal on 5 November in connection with the presidential reference filed against him for alleged irregularities in obtaining loans for Sharjuna Textile mills, which benefited several members of his family, whereas the company was not even registered. Faisal Saleh Hayat has been charged with misuse of his authority and position as the federal minister in acquiring a loan from the United Bank. He used his influence with the bank officers concerned and thereby violated the principles of banking by exerting pressue to get a loan of 308.7 million rupees with a cash investment of only 25.10 million rupees in the Sharjuna Textile Mill project.

Justice Minister Accused

BK2110172790 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 21 Oct 90

[Text] The court comprising Peshawar High Court Judge Justice Wali Mohammad forwarded a case against former Justice Minister Syed Iftikhar Hussain Gilani on charges of withdrawing 28 lakh rupees from the Ministry's funds by forgery. It has been alleged that these funds were not used for strengthening the judiciary. The president nominated the court of Justice Wali Mohammad as the special court under 1977 [word indistinct]. These funds were withdrawn from the Treasury from the personal ledger accounts with the signature of the former minister, and the additional secretary of the Justice Ministry, Sheikh Amjad Ali, had personally handed over this amount to the former minister. The minister was asked to appear before the court on the seventh of next month.

Mujahidin's Hikmatyar Opposes U.S. Gulf Presence

BK2010152790 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 20 Oct 90 p 9

[Text] Peshawar, Oct 19—Engineer Gulbuddin Hikmatyar, chief of Hezb-e Eslami Afghanistan has refuted a news report published in a section of press stating that in the world Muslim conference held in Mecca, Engineer Gulbuddin Hikmatyar also justified the sending of US troops to Saudi Arabia, reports Afghan News Agency.

In a statement, he clarified that from the very beginning he opposed the sending of American troops to Saudi Arabia and in future too he will oppose their presence in the Gulf.

He said, the presence of US troops in the Gulf was a great threat to the Muslim countries and Islamic ideology. The American troops, he added, had been despatched to the Gulf under a conspiracy to take full advantage of the

internal differences of Muslims. "This is aimed at taking control on the oil reserves," he expressed anxiety. He said I believe that America wants to impose a war in the Gulf under the pretext of defending Kuwait. It wants to destablise those forces who pose a threat to Israel and evade such dangers, he added.

He disclosed that the United States of America dreamed long ago to send her troops to the oil-rich countries of the Gulf. Especially when Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan the Americans justified sending troops to the Gulf by saying that the presence of Soviet troops in Afghanistan is a direct threat to the Gulf countries.

He said for the first time the United States had got the opportunity of interfering in the Gulf and it would fully avail, the chance to further her designs.

He said the US should be forced to withdraw its troops from the Gulf and leave the issue to the Muslim countries as it was purely their internal affair and they should solve it through mutual negotations.

Mujahidin Top Commanders Evolve Unified Strategy

BK2010151790 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 20 Oct 90 p 9

[Text] Peshawar, Oct 19—The nation-wide commander's Shoora [assembly] of Afghan Mujahidin has decided to evolve unified and single military strategy for armed operations inside Afghanistan with its point of view that it is not right time to attack Kabul right now.

The Shoora ended 14-day long deliberations and the newsmen both foreign and Pakistanis were briefed by eight top commanders at a Press conference in Pakistan yesterday.

The Press conference was jointly addressed by Maulvi Jalaluddin Haqani (Khowst), Commander Qari Baba (Ghazni), Commander General Saeed (Hazarajat), commander Maulvi Siddiqullah (Kabul), Commander Amin Wardak (Wardak), Commander Mohammad Anwar (Kabul Sarowbi), Commander Musa Khan (Maidan), and Mulla Malang (Qandhar).

Commander Jalaluddin Haqani said the nation wide commanders Shoora, held at the Badakshan border Oct. 9 through 17, have raised the hopes of the people of Afghanistan that peace and security can be achieved.

The meetings of the commanders resulted in complete understanding and cooperation on the situation in Afghanistan. Commanders from all across the country, Shiia and Sunni, participated.

Leaders Meet To End Discord

BK2210111890 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 22 Oct 90 p 10

[Text] Peshawar, Oct. 21—Leaders of the seven Mujahidin parties met here at the residence of Engineer Gulbuddin Hikmatyar to sink their internal differences and discuss the political stalemate of Afghanistan.

Those who attended the meeting included Prof. Sebghatullah Mujaddedi, President of the AIG [Afghan Interim Government], Prof Burhanuddin Rabbani, chief of Jamiat-e Eslami-e Afghanistan, Prof Abdul Rab Rasool Sayyaf, Prime Minister of the AIG and chief of Etehad-e Eslami Afghanistan, Mawlawi Muhammad Nabi Muhammadi, chief of Harakat-e Enquelab-e Eslami-e Afghanistan, Maulvi Muhammad Yunis Khalis, Interior Minister of the AIG and chief of Hezb-e Eslami-e Afghanistan, and Pir Sayyed Ahmad Gaylani, chief of National Islamic Front of Afghanistan. The meeting was held in a very fraternal atmosphere and all the leaders appreciated the cordiality and brotherhood of each other. This is for the first time after the withdrawal of HIA [Hezb-e Eslami-e Afghanistan] (Hekmatyar) from the fold of the AIG last year that the seven-party leadership attended the meeting which continued for more than three hours. The presence of Pir Sayyed Ahmad Gaylani and Maulvi Muhammad Yunis Khalis who for the first time attended the meeting in the series of current negotiations, added much colour to the same.

Engineer Gulbuddin Hikmatyar refuted a news item aired by Voice of America saying that the proposal to attack Kabul has been dropped. He termed the report as baseless and concocted.

Mujahidin, Najibullah Said To Meet in New Delhi

BK2110175190 Hong Kong AFP in English 1716 GMT 21 Oct 90

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, Oct 21 (AFP)—Representatives of Afghan President Najibullah and the mujahidin's government in exile met in New Delhi in August, a top mujahidin leader said here Sunday. Professor Sebghatullah Mojadeddi, president of the Afghan Interim Government (AIG), told newsmen here that the meeting took place when Mr. Najibullah made a state visit to India in late August.

"The representative from the Najibullah side said (to our representative) that Najibullah's position was stronger than before, and so he will not step down, but he is ready to share power," Prof. Mojadeddi said. "Already we have said we do not want to share power with Najibullah and the communists."

Prof. Mojadeddi gave no further details of the meeting, but it was the first announcement by the Pakistan-based alliance of seven Sunni parties that one of its representatives had met with the Soviet-backed Najibullah government, which consistently maintains that low level contacts between the two are frequent.

The revelation that the meeting took place came two days after U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar told the U.N. General Assembly in New York that "the time had come" to settle the Afghan problem. Mr. de Cuellar said that consensus had to be reached, not

only at the international but at the national level, and that an end to the war could only come through a political solution.

It also came after the shock visit to Pakistan by legendary mujahidin field commander Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, better known as the "Lion of Panjsher", who left his base in northern Afghanistan for the first time during 12 years of war to make the visit. Mr. Mas'ud crossed the border into Pakistan after attending a senior mujahidin field commanders' meeting inside Afghanistan to plot a unified offensive on the government in Kabul.

Prof. Mojadeddi said the AIG was "considering a plan" for an attack on Kabul in which only military targets would be hit. Mr. Mas'ud, whose estimated 10,000 followers last year were engaged in bloody feuds with powerful fundamentalist faction leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, said after the commanders' meeting in Chittral earlier this month that they had agreed to work together to overthrow the Kabul government.

Mr. Hekmatyar, in a surprise move Sunday, met here with leaders of the AIG, which he pulled out of in August last year. His move prompted both the Najibullah government and some officials in Washington to predict that the mujahidin were falling apart in factional struggles.

Prof. Mojadeddi said the "door was open" for Mr. Hekmatyar to return to the AIG fold "if he wants to." He added that the fundamentalist leader had assured the AIG that he would not indulge in propaganda aginst other mujahidin factions. The mujahidin this month captured the town of Tarin Kowt, the first provincial capital they have managed to overrun since the Soviet troop withdrawal from Afghanistan, completed in February 1989.

Afghan Rebels Burn Jets; Kill 24 Servicemen

BK2210105890 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 22 Oct 90 p 1

[Text] Peshawar, Oct 21.—The Mujahidin targetted Shindand airbase with heavy machineguns and long-ranged weapons, burning three communist regime's jet fighters which were about to taking off on Oct. 17, the MIDIA's [MEDIA INFORMATION DEPARTMENT OF ISLAMIC AFGHANISTAN] office in Quetta reports. As many as 24 servicemen of the airbase were killed, 55 injured and several military barracks were also destroyed.

Sri Lanka

Nationals in Kuwait Urged To Evacuate to Amman

BK2010121890 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 20 Oct 90

[Text] Arrangements made by the Gvernment of Sri Lanka to repatriate its nationals in Kuwait continue to be in operation. Sri Lankan nationals are therefore requested to make immediate arrangements to proceed to Amman via Baghdad. The cold weather is settling in Amman and rains are commencing. There is no delay in crossing the Jordan border and the repatriates will be airlifted from Amman within 24 hours of their arrival at the border. The Government of Sri Lanka urges all its nationals in Kuwait to avail themselves of these facilities and return home as soon as possible.

50 Soldiers Killed Near Jaffna Base

BK1910141490 Hong Kong AFP in English 1359 GMT 19 Oct 90

[Text] Colombo, Oct 19 (AFP)—Sri Lanka's dominant rebel group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) said Friday that its fighters had killed 50 Army soldiers in heavy fighting near an air base in the Jaffna peninsula. LTTE spokesman Lawrence Thilakar told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE on the telephone from Paris that 15 Tigers had also been killed in the third consecutive day of fighting near the northern Palaly Air Force Base.

But an official communique here said the Army had suffered only five dead and more than 40 wounded, while troops found the bodies of 20 guerrillas with their equipment. There was "heavy resistance from the LTTE terrorists who were well entrenched in bunkers" during the Army operations to dislodge rebels from positions in the outer perimeter of the Palaly Base, the communique said.

Mr. Thilakar said fighting was still going on in Vasavilan district, south of the Palaly Air Base, the target of rebel mortar attacks since renewed fighting erupted on June 11 between government troops and the LTTE. The Army was trying to take the Kurumbachitti area in Vasavilan but LTTE fighters had stopped the Army advance, Mr. Thilakar said.

Colombo said its troops captured Vasavilan on Wednesday, the first day of fighting, and then Thursday overran Punnalai-Kattuvan further south and Mallakam, southwest of the Palaly base. "800 troops, armoured vehicles, trucks and jeeps are being deployed in the new offensive launched by the Sri Lankan Army," the LTTE said earlier in a statement received here from the group's London office.

"Air force planes and helicopters are bombarding Palaly and all surrounding areas under the pretext of giving cover to the ground forces," the guerrillas, who control the Jaffna peninsula, said. The LTTE fighters launched a rocket-propelled grenade attack destroying an armoured car and a military pick-up truck, the statement said.

A military spokesman here said troops backed by Air Force helicopters drove back the LTTE guerrillas from Palaly into the interior in the direction of the Jaffna town, the main LTTE stronghold some 18 kilometers (about 11 miles) south. The rebels had fled from areas seized by the Army, carrying away many of their injured and leaving behind automatic weapons, ammunition and an assortment of mines, the spokesman said.

Military officials here admitted that progress was being badly hampered by mines, the LTTE's lethal armoury in the current seccessionist war, but troops had smashed many defensive positions from Vasavilan to Punnalai-Kattuvan and in Mallakam. "We are making slow but steady progress," an official said, adding the thrust of the current offensive was aimed at regaining control of areas surrounding the Palaly airfield which also houses an army camp.

The guerrillas had been firing mortars into the military base, the largest in the peninsula, in a bid to bring down air force planes transporting troop reinforcements and food supplies to military camps in the region. Meanwhile, the Defence Ministry communique said one soldier and five rebels died in Army operations in the eastern province in the last 24 hours during which security forces also seized grenades and ammunition. More than 4,350 people are reported to have been killed in the renewed violence in the northeast, home to Sri Lanka's minority Tamils.

100 LTTE Soldiers Killed in Recent Operations

BK2010111990 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0945 GMT 20 Oct 90

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Oct 20 (LANKAPUVATH)—During the last 24 hours ending 12 noon today, the security forces continued their operations to extend the perimeters of the Palali Army Camp and Air Force base. Troops from the 6 Gajaba Regiment, 3 Sri Lanka Light Infantry, 4 Gajaba Regiment [as received], 4 Sri Lanka Singha Regiment and 6 Sri Lanka Field Engineers were tasked for this operations. These units have been supported by other supporting and servicing units, states a press release from the Ministry of Defence. The Air Force was also tasked to neutralise well identified LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorist targets and provide support to ground troops. It is reported that the security forces have advanced to Vasavilan, Tholagatty, Punnalai, Kadduwan, Kurummbasiddy and Mallakam areas amidst heavy resistence from the LTTE terrorists. In one particular instance troops cleared a bunker and tunnel system of over 2000 meters to gain control of the Kadduwan area. Large stocks of warlike equipment, anti-personnel mines, medical items and equipment and 26 automatic rifles as well as documents have been recovered. These documents have assisted the security forces to identify 28 LTTE terrorist bodies.

Other reports indicated that the LTTE terrorists have lost over 100 dead and many wounded. The security forces report that since this operation commenced on 17th October, 1990 two officers and 12 soldiers have died. Of the 145 soldiers injured the large majority have suffered only minior injuries. All serious cases have been air-lifted to Colombo. Intelligence reports indicate that the military machinery of the LTTE terrorists is in total disarray with a severe shortage of men, arms, ammunition and logistical support. Frantic messages have been sent out to all LTTE regional centres abroad calling for immediate replenishment of funds, men and military supplies.

Several Sri Lanka heads of missions in Western countries have reported that there is a new wave of extortion, abductions and drug trafficking by LTTE terrorists to support the so-called seperatist cause in Sri Lanka. It has been reported that the LTTE terrorists had attempted a jail break recently in a foreign country using mercenaries and helicopters to take out several hardcore LTTE terrorists to be flown back to Sri Lanka to join in what is called "the last ditch battle."

Information regarding LTTE terrorist hideouts and activities is flowing into the police and security forces in the Eastern Province. The police in the Trincomalee area on information received have recovered an assortment of over 31,000 rounds of ammuntion, a large quantity of grenades, anti-personnel mines and a few repeater shot guns.

The ship "MV Amazon" is leaving Trincomalee Harbour with a consignment of 450 metric tons [mt] of rice and flour to the islands of Kayts and Mannar. The Central Council of Social Services have made arrangements to transport 200 mt rice, 200 mt flour, 140 mt dhal [lentils]/green gram and 20 mt tea to the northern, eastern areas. These will be taken in the form of family packs to facilitate distribution. The UNHCR [United Nations High Commission for Refugees] is making arrangements to transport 320 mt rice, 240 mt flour, 24 mt milk food,40 mt garlic, 32 mt sugar, 40 mt dhal, 02 mt coriander, 05 mt tea, 01 mt cumin seed, 1700 cases of all varieties of soap and other items to Madhu in the Mannar District to be distributed to the large number of displaced persons who are being looked after in the Madhu Church Camp.

Forces Capture Seventh Town, 20 LTTE Killed

BK2110093790 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0738 GMT 21 Oct 90

["OANA/pool" Item]

[Text] Colombo, 21 Oct (LANKAPUVATH)—Sri Lanka's security forces [which] began their two pronged attack closing in on Jaffna town from Palali airbase and Kankesanthurai captured a seventh town since the current operations began Wednesday [17 October]. Official sources told LANKAPUVATH that the latest town to fall to government troops despite fierce enemy resistance was Mawathipuram, close to Kankesanthurai.

The bodies of 20 LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists killed in the battle were recovered. Three soldiers had been killed. Eight terrorist vehicles were also destroyed. Meanwhile, the security forces camp came under heavy LTTE mortar fire yesterday, but the attack was effectively repulsed.

Earlier, the security forces captured Vasavilan, Tholagathy, Pumnalai, Kadduwan, Kurumbasiddy and Mallakam, only seven and a half miles from Jaffna town. Official sources said 13 LTTE terrorists were killed by the security forces in an encounter at Kirankulam Puthukudirrippu in the Eastern Batticaloa district. Police had captured a number of repeater shot guns, self loading rifles, M-14, No.36 grenades and anti-personnel mines from the LTTE at Alkerni in the east.

LTTE Dislodged From Kankesanthurai Factory

BK2210093990 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0645 GMT 22 Oct 90

["OANA/Pool item"]

[Text] Colombo, 22 Oct (LANKAPUVATH)—The Sri Lankan security forces this morning dislodged the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] from the government cement factory at Kankesanthurai (KKS), which the terrorists were using as their key firing position to hit the harbour and the security forces camp. Official sources told LANKAPUVATH that the security forces detachment at KKS had found that the terrorists had blasted the machinery at the factory as they fled. The LTTE suffered a large number of casualties and six bodies have alread been found.

One security force personnel was killed and 19 others wounded in this encounter. A large quantity of AK-47 rifles and 15 bags containing anti-personnel and Claymore mines, were recovered. Official sources said that meanwhile several boxes of used and unused condoms of local and Indian manufacture had been found by security forces inside bunkers and in scrubland close to areas where women cadres had been stationed. They gave these areas as Alapiddy, Vasavilan, Myliddy and Mahavaliburam.

The sources said the security forces in its current operation which began Wednesday [17 October], had captured and destroyed a large number of bunkers which had been built with three layers comprising concrete, railway lines, trucks of palmyrah tree and sandbags. The sources further said that two farmers were killed by LTTE terrorists at Morawewa in Trincomalee. Security forces recovered a 15 kg mine at Vijithapuram. Five terrorists were killed, when security forces repulsed an attack on the Mullaitivu camp last evening.